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Sonia's credibility at stake

**What about
tainted
ministers in
AP?**

Congress's Double Standards

By Our Political Correspondent

Two developments have grabbed the attention of the entire nation this week. One is the impressive victory of Congress in Karnataka Assembly elections and another is the stringent comments made by the Supreme Court of India against Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar for altering the status report of the CBI in the coal scam.

Strangely, UPA coalition led by Congress which is in power at the centre has tried to take credit on both the things. The party said that the people of Karnataka have given their verdict against raging corruption in Karnataka led by the BJP in the last five years. Defense Minister AK Antony who came to Bangalore to supervise the election of K Sidda Ramaiah as the new CLP leader of Karnataka Congress Legislative Party said: "This is a mandate against corruption".

In another instance, we have seen how Congress president Sonia Gandhi drove to the residence of PM Manmohan Singh; that 'visiting' being followed by the sacking of two Union Ministers – both Law Minister Ashwani Kumar and Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal – in one go. And again, the party had sought to claim credit for this anti-corruption move.

Well, the actual facts in these two episodes are different. In the state of Karnataka, the Congress won because of the unabated charges of corruption leading to frequent change of Chief Ministers by the BJP and the three-way split in votes of BJP; divided by former Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa's who floated Karnataka Janata Party and former minister B Sreeramulu, a protégé of Mining don Gali Janardhan Reddy under a political name called- BSR Congress, which together reduced BJP's vote share by 13 per cent.

But, the real issue lies in the fact that the Congress which is in power in Andhra Pradesh is silent over the continuation of two of its tainted ministers in the cabinet for over a year. The two ministers – P Sabita (Home) and Dharmana Prasada Rao (Roads and Buildings) - who are continuing in their ministerial posts even after being charge-sheeted by the CBI in the Jagan's disproportionate assets case.

Dharmana Prasada Rao tendered his resignation in August last year and Sabita offered to quit last month, when she was framed in a supplementary charge-sheet filed by the CBI. On both the instances, CM Kiran Kumar Reddy faithfully took



their matter to the notice of the party high command. It is obvious that the congress high command has instructed him to reject their resignations and allow them to continue in power. A glaring instance of double standards prevailing in the

congress scheme of things; Sonia who is being credited with the sacking of delinquent Union Cabinet Ministers – Law Minister Ashwani Kumar and Rail Minister PK Bansal, who are asked to resign even before any formal complaint was lodged against them. If that is the propriety prevailing in Delhi and Sonia Gandhi taking such high moral ground than what's the matter with charge sheeted ministers in state of AP ruled by the same congress party headed by Sonia Gandhi. Clearly, a case of blatant double standards.

As a result, Dharmana Prasada Rao has enjoyed a full six months paid holiday, all that without attending to his office in Secretariat and seeing the files but taking full salary and perks and wielding clout and protocol as a Minister wherever he went in the country. Only since recently, he started attending the cabinet meetings and office.

Even Sabita too for a few weeks abstained from her office in Secretariat and only very recently she too started attending her office. Many thought that at least her portfolio would be changed from Home, Jails and Fire Services to some other department as being a person charged with Section 420 of IPC (cheating) does not jell well with her ministerial responsibilities.

But, ironically, the same Sonia Gandhi has not only decided to continue Sabita in the cabinet, but also in the same



Ashwani Kumar



Pawan Kumar Bansal



Sabitha Indra Reddy



Dharmana Prasad Rao



K Parthasarathy

Home portfolio. As a result, Sabitha has been appointed as in charge of the recently constituted State Public Security Commission. This sounds ridiculous as the safety of the people of the state has been put in the hands of a person facing CBI investigation under IPC sections including 420 and etcetera.

The same Congress president is also

silent on the CBI naming in its FIR against three more ministers – Kanna Lakshminarayana (Agriculture), Ponnala Lakshmaiah (IT and Power) and J Geeta Reddy (Major Industries) – in the same Jagan's assets case. So far, only one among the six charge-sheeted ministers – Mopidevi Venkata Ramana went to jail.

Take the case of others like K

Parthasarathy, Secondary Education Minister in Kiran Reddy cabinet, even after being convicted by the Special Court for Economic Offences in Hyderabad that found K Parthasarathy guilty in a case relating to violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) provisions on 24th July, 2012. The convicted minister continues without neither moral nor legal

propriety. The Court sentenced the minister to two months' simple imprisonment. The special court for economic offences, however, also granted bail to the Secondary Education Minister K Parthasarathy. It gave him a month's time to appeal against the verdict in a higher court. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5.15 lakh on the minister.

Parthasarathy has been elected to the state Assembly from Krishna district in 2004 and 2009 and has been serving as a minister since 2009.

Meanwhile, highly-placed sources claimed that Parthasarathy did not disclose in his election affidavits in 2004 and 2009 that he was facing criminal charges under FERA though the case has been pending against him since 1999. Many political observers contend that "this is a serious offence under the Representation of People Act and he could face further trouble on that count as well". However, since his appeal in the AP high court is still pending, no action is being taken against some one who is convicted. Why so?

Matter of Convenience:

It appears that it is nothing but a matter of convenience to the Congress high command. If Sonia Gandhi shares genuine public concerns against corruption, she would have ordered the sacking of all the six ministers mentioned in the CBI's FIR and also the Secondary Education Minister who is convicted in

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money laundering case. The high command must introspect how the Congress led government of Kiran Kumar Reddy has decided to extend legal help to these tainted ministers.

People of the country are aware that YSRCP chief and Kadapa MP YS Jaganmohan Reddy was sent to jail a year ago in a disproportionate assets case, but the five other ministers involved in the same case are continuing in the cabinet and enjoying the power and pelf. Is Sonia Gandhi so afraid of sacking these charge-sheeted ministers just because they might revolt and leave the party and join Jagan? Is this not an open embarrassment

to the party? The prolonged confinement of Jagan in jail too is now attributed to a political strategy on the part of the Congress to bend him to join an electoral adjustment with it in the coming general elections. The statements of some union ministers belonging AP state that - Jagan will come out of jail only if he joins Congress - is not accidental.

Even in the case of sacking of PK Bansal and Ashwini Kumar, too many things are still to come out of the closets. Reliable sources in Delhi say that this sacking of two ministers at the instance of Sonia Gandhi is nothing but an exercise to tarnish the image of the PM and thus spike his career, at least a year before the UPA goes to polls in 2014.

As a senior commentator in a leading national news channels said on Friday night, the Congress high command is annoyed with the indications from Manmohan Singh that he was open minded on a third term, if opportunity comes his way. The same commentator said that Singh was prompted to indicate this, after observing that all his ministers are flocking to Rahul Gandhi after he was elevated as the Vice-President. However, well informed people are of the opinion that the PM would be too glad to make his exit to pave way for a reluctant Rahul Gandhi. It is a well known fact that the only qualification of Manmohan Singh being his absolutely non political character and his extreme loyalty to Madam Sonia.

However, there seems to be an intense internal power struggle in Congress. Sonia Gandhi wanted to demonstrate to the whole world that it is at her behest only Bansal and Kumar had been sacked. Otherwise, she could simply call on phone or send her emissary Ahmed Patel to the PM to convey the message. But, she went to the PM only to make everyone publicly aware of her interference.

If Congress is sincere on the issue of corruption, it would have allowed A Raja to depose before the JPC on 2G Spectrum and taken action against many erring congressmen. The party would have allowed the CBI to go ahead with its investigation in the coal mines allocations scam without any need to interfere. Mostly, the party would have by now dropped at least Sabita and Dharmana from AP cabinet; soon after they were charge



sheeted by the CBI.

But, Sonia's interest and involvement in drive against corruption seems very selective and her non seriousness in sacking tainted ministers in AP shows some hidden agenda. The issue is that people are able to understand the double standards of the Congress party on the issue of corruption. It would be wise for Sonia to shun double standards and adopt same measures lest the projection of being anti- corrupt in Delhi would boomerang in AP state that has given the Congress the highest contingent of Lok sabha MPs in 2004 and 2009 general elections. ♦

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Kanna Lakshminarayana



Geetha Reddy



Ponnala Lakshmaiah

Can CBI make impartial investigations?

By B Shivkant

The Supreme Court, while examining the affidavit submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with coal scam, on Wednesday came down heavily on the government and the investigating agency for the probe mess and gave the Centre time till July 3rd to file an affidavit before it on steps to make the agency autonomous.

The apex court took a very strong stand and called the CBI, "a caged parrot speaking in its master's voice". Indicting the government for alleged interference in the CBI probe, the three-judge bench headed by Justice RM Lodha, said it will step in if the CBI was not made an autonomous body. However, it admitted that giving unbridled powers to the agency was not a possibility.

"The CBI has become a caged parrot speaking in its master's voice. It's a sordid saga that there are many masters and giving unbridled power to the CBI is not possible. The CBI has become the police force and is in the administrative control of the Central government. CBI investigations have to be independent," the SC said in its observations. The SC added that if a law was in the offing which would protect the CBI's impartial investigations, then it will not pass any orders but if there was no such move, then "we will step in".

"What is the CBI? Is it a Collaborator or an Investigator," the SC asked in its stinging criticism.

The apex court also slammed officials of the PMO and Coal Ministry



during the hearing. "How on earth could the Joint Secretaries of the PMO and the Coal Ministry attend the meeting, see the report and suggest changes to it," the SC asked. "It pains us to see the credibility of the CBI getting affected. The CBI is doing a collaborative probe. The job of the CBI is to interrogate and not interact with government," the court added and also said that the "heart of the CBI report was changed on the suggestions of government officials".

Attorney General GE Vahanvati, Law Minister Ashwani Kumar and the two officials of the PMO and the Coal Ministry had been accused by the CBI in its affidavit of suggesting changes to its report on Coalgate. Vahanvati, however, sought to deflect charges against him, saying that he never sought a copy of the report and that he acted as per the instructions of the Law Minister. "My meeting with CBI officials took place only on

suggestions of the Law Minister.

In a big embarrassment for the government, CBI Director Ranjit Sinha in an affidavit told the Supreme Court on Monday that the Law Minister and senior officials of the PMO and Coal Ministry had made changes in the central agency's draft status report on coal scam. Sinha in his affidavit said that the minister made "certain changes" in the agency's draft probe report on coal scam and gave details of series of meetings with Kumar, Vahanvati, Additional Solicitor General Haren Raval and Shatrughna Singh and AK Bhalla, joint secretaries of the PMO and the Coal Ministry during which changes in the probe reports were suggested and made by them. The CBI version contradicts reports of Ashwani's account that he was not involved in drafting the changes.

The three-judge bench headed by Justice RM Lodha, pulled up the CBI for keeping it in the dark about the sharing of status report with the government. The bench will go through a second affidavit filed by Sinha giving details of the changes made and at whose instance these were done. Expressing concern over the Centre's interference in the CBI probe in coal scam and other cases, the SC said, "No substantial progress has been made in the coal scam probe after registration of the case. The CBI must know how to stand up against all pulls and pressures by the government and its officials."

The SC also directed the CBI not to share progress of probe or any report or

material with anybody other than its 33-member team and Director, adding, "The CBI Director and the investigating team should have stood up and denied any access to the two joint secretaries to draft status report. The court wants to know can the Law Minister ask CBI to show details of probe or status report in a case involving people of other ministries and PMO. Does it not subvert integrity of investigation if changes are brought in status report on suggestion of Law Minister and government officers?"

The court said that it was the responsibility of the CBI chief to ensure that no access should be granted to any person, including Law Minister, other Union Ministers, law officers, CBI counsel and Department of Prosecution of CBI to probe in coal block scam. "The status report on probe in Coalgate shall not be provided to the special CBI court where FIR was registered," it said.

The apex court asked for immediate steps be taken to repatriate former DIG Ravi Kant Mishra who was the investigating officer in the case and had been transferred to the Intelligence Bureau and added that it will consider various aspects, including setting up of SIT to look after the probe into the case. The CBI responded saying, "The CBI will follow the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in letter and spirit. The CBI assures the Hon'ble Court of a thorough and qualitative investigation as desired." Let's hope the CBI starts functioning independently. ♦

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Kadiam Srihari ditches party that groomed him

By B Shivkant

Senior TDP leader and Politburo member Kadiyam Srihari on Saturday quit the party expressing displeasure over a host of issues, including the party's ambivalent stand on the Telangana statehood issue. Srihari, once a junior lecturer in CKM Junior College, Warangal, quit teaching and joined the TDP in 1987 to contest municipal polls. Having lost the election to the Municipal Chairman of Warangal Municipality, the ruling TDP nominated him as Chairman of KUDA. Later in 1994, Srihari got elected as a MLA for two terms. He was also a Minister in the Chandrababu Naidu cabinet holding several portfolios like Marketing, Social Welfare, Primary Education and Major Irrigation.

Many attribute this elevation as gift of KCR, whose Telangana stand has forced Chandra babu Naidu to give prime portfolios to Ministers in T-region. Srihari is a shrewd politician who is known to make deft moves to suit his convenience. His evaluation of

TDP making it in next elections is dismally poor. Hence, the need to greener pastures. His inclination to join the TRS is borne out of the fact that the T-sentiment is so strong that getting deposit would be tough for Srihari. That's why he made a desperate move to join the TRS, despite knowing that KCR is not the same "Bhaiyya". He is now the leader of TRS, that is aiming to sweep elections in the T-region. Although, claiming to join either TRS or BJP; sources indicate that there is no invitation from the BJP and Srihari has made all arrangements to join the TRS in the presence of KCR on 15th May in Warangal.

Pouring out his frustration at the TDP leadership, Srihari states that "The TDP has completely failed the people and lost its credibility. Only cash-rich industrialists were getting prominence in the party at the cost of sincere workers," Srihari alleged at a media conference in his hometown Warangal. Srihari, who represented the TDP at the



All-party meeting in New Delhi on Telangana, said the party was not respecting the sentiments of people of the region.

Srihari, who lost the Assembly

elections in 2004 and 2009, had been sulking for sometime now. He met party chief Chandrababu Naidu after the latter concluded his 208-day foot march and dismissed reports that he was quitting the party.

However, he announced his resignation on Saturday but did not indicate his future plans. However, he is known to have discussed his plans extensively with some junior leaders of the TRS as KCR was reluctant to enter into any dialogue with his former colleague in the TDP as Srihari in the past used his previous meetings with KCR only to negotiate with Chandra Babu Naidu for better prospects in TDP. But this time a desperate Srihari, is known to be pleading his case before Sircilla MLA KT Rama Rao for assurance on party ticket from Station Ghanpur Assembly constituency. But the sitting MLA over there Dr T Rajaiah is confident that he will retain his seat. What will KCR sir ji do? ♦

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Manmohan must quit in grace

Amidst high drama that went on for days, the tumbling of skeletons from UPA's shabby kitchen at last began but in quite unusual terms. In one single day, i.e. on Friday, May 10th, 2013, two Union Ministers Pawan Kumar Bansal (Railways) and Ashwani Kumar (Law), were sacked from the Union Cabinet. They were summoned to Race Course Road, No 7, New Delhi, the official residence of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and were asked to put in their papers and they promptly did so.

They had to make a disgraceful exit for being involved in controversies having varied nature. If Bansal had to quit for his involvement in the Railgate scam, unearthed by the CBI; Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar had to leave office after his role was severely indicted by the Supreme Court of India which is hearing the Coalgate scam. Ashwani Kumar's role has been castigated for having tampered with the status report of the CBI on the Coalgate scam. Especially, in view of the apex court specifically directing the CBI to strictly adhere to secrecy norms in its investigation of the coal related scam that has cast a shadow on the role of the Prime Minister himself during his stint as In-charge of Coal Ministry between 2006-2009, when massive coal allocations were made to members of the ruling coalition.

Their resignations have come not without the usual political drama that caught the attention of the entire nation on live coverage of news television channels. Hours before these two ministers were called to the PM's residence and told to quit, Congress President Sonia Gandhi drove herself to the place and closeted with Manmohan Singh for an hour. No sooner has she left for the PM's residence, some Delhi based news channels have started putting breaking news that the two ministers would be shown the doors. In fact, the speculation in the media was rife since yesterday that the continuation of the two ministers was almost untenable and that they may be dropped anytime soon.

Once it was known that Bansal and Kumar had been sacked, a section of the media started attributing the developments to the insistence of Sonia Gandhi that they should go forthwith. One English news channel even went to the extent of saying that the PM had been trying to defend these

two tainted ministers and that he was forced by Sonia to sack them.

Heights of this line of thinking were displayed when one Editor-in-Chief of a leading TV News Channel in his News Hour program asked the Congress Spokesman Sanjay Jha like: "Are you on the side of Manmohan Singh or Sonia Gandhi?" The anchor was trying to find out whether 'Jha' was agreeing with the dropping of these ministers or not. Inference left to the viewers was "If he agrees, he is on the side of Sonia;



otherwise, he is on the side of Singh". And it turned out that the whole story of CBI going after Bansal was not an overnight development. The CBI is stated to have tapped Bansal's phone since April 17th and gathered a lot of information in the manner in which he collected cash to fill up top railway posts. In all, 238 calls including some of them originating from the landline of the minister's official residence in Delhi too were tracked.

It is now clear that these tapes as well as the incriminating documents made available to the channel are nothing but a systematic work by the CBI. It is obvious that the CBI would

not have done this kind of major operation against a Union Minister without the backing of some supreme political leaders, placed higher than the PM himself. The fact that all the incriminating material was made available to various news channels "in the form of super explosives" was nothing but suggestive of selective leaks from the CBI, possibly at the behest of some vested interests.

Why the media is interpreting the sacking of these ministers as an anti-Manmohan Singh move is that only a few days ago, the Prime Minister strongly defended them before the media. And both are by coincidence from Punjab – Bansal a MP from Chandigarh and Kumar a RS MP from Punjab. What Deccan Post would like to suggest is that Dr Manmohan Singh, must quit now, since he is being portrayed as some one who is not all that clean. Whether there is any political controversy or not; the Nation has landed itself in a less comfortable situation as demonstrated by incursions from either Chinese or ISI elements as brazenly as was experienced last fortnight ago. The Chinese had a taste of India's silent hospitality. They savoured it. Next, time they may resort to much bigger adventures; all because India has a Prime Minister, who is the functional political executive but does not have the legitimacy as the leader of the Nation.

Manmohan has done commendable job in driving Indian economy into high growth model. But his lack of sensitivity towards the majority opinion prevailing in the nation is a huge set back to our democratic aspirations. Its high time Manmohan realizes the folly of being responsible when he has no real power. He must end this fraudulent arrangement. This is the only way, he can restore his image. Otherwise, certain vested interests within the party would project him as an embodiment of corruption and call him the real beneficiary of all the loot that is believed to have taken place in his tenure of nine years from 2004 onwards. Manmohan must not allow the impression that he was escorting the real culprits from vanishing into thin air, a la Quattrocchi's vanishing act. Deccan Post urges our Prime Minister to exit in grace and save the nation from further suffering. ♦

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Last chance?

I totally agree with Deccan Post's last week's cover story that it's the last chance for Sonia Gandhi and her Congress party to create Telangana state. It's a well known fact that the Congress led UPA government at Centre is dilly-dallying the contentious issue of statehood to Telangana since it came back to power in the year 2004. The congress Party has indulged in time pass kind of strategies by forming Pranab Committee, Rosaiah Committee, Justice Sri Krishna Committee, expecting Consensus from all parties and so more but no firm initiative has been taken by the congress party even after 9th December, 2009 declaration that the process of Telangana will be initiated and the declaration made in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha. Telangana agitation reached its peak and if Sonia Gandhi does not fulfill the promise of creating Telangana

state then her party will lose its credibility and face debacle in Telangana region. I personally believe that if the people's aspirations are not respected by the congress party then it will pay a very huge price for the same. Its high time that Sonia Gandhi must take positive steps for creating Telangana as

soon as possible otherwise the congress party is surely going to be rooted out from this region.

*Mahender Reddy,
Kukatpally*

India fails to save Sarabjit

I am a frequent reader of Deccan Post and I like its Editorials very much. With reference to your last week's edit piece,

most of the people like me will be agreed with the fact that India really failed to save Sarabjit. It's a well known truth that

Sarabjit's conviction was not backed by strong evidence and he languished in Pakistan Jail for nearly 23 years just because he was

Indian and the Indian government has not done anything noteworthy for the return of Sarabjit. After his demise due to the attack by fellow jail inmates in Pakistan and returning the dead body of Sarabjit Singh to India, politicians like Rahul Gandhi and Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab state have been present at the funerals and many people like me believe that it was just to achieve political mileage they have declared a state mourning. I strongly believe that if India had behaved firm then the return of Sarabjit could have been possible. We Indians, do not need weak governments which fails even to protect its citizens' lives.

Harmeet Singh, Gowliguda

PM leading a...

The pathetic state of affairs in the central government can simply be understood as the congress party tried to save its two tainted ministers – Ashwani Kumar, Law Minister and Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Railways Minister. Its nothing but the truth that Manmohan Singh is surely leading a 'Stinking and Sinking' cabinet as many of the scams like 2G, Common Wealth Games, SG Band, Coalgate and now its Railgate. The central ministers in UPA government like A Raja, Dayanidhi Maran, Shashi Tharoor, P Chidambaram have been alleged with corruption and other violations and now its Ashwani Kumar and Pawan Kumar Bansal. As the pressure mounted on PM Manmohan Singh, both the ministers have resigned but resignations are not going to satisfy the people of this country. They should be tried legally and should be punished if found guilty by our courts.

S Aparna, E-mail

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



Congress rides on BJP's discomfiture in Karnataka...

By Dr T Siva Prasad Reddy - Special Correspondent

Much hyped assembly elections in Karnataka comes to a climax with Congress coming back to power after a seven year hiatus dislodging the incumbent-BJP regime from the throne. It assumes all the more significance as Karnataka is the only state wherein BJP was in power and looking to consolidate ahead of general elections to grab power at the centre. All stake holders along with much publicized pre-poll predictions in the media invited never before curiosity & political enthusiasm across the nation saw even Hindi belt parties like BSP, Samajwadi Party which really have no worthwhile base in Karnataka had their heads of the party criss-crossing the state for campaigning. All major parties chipped in with their combinations and permutations not just to win but also to see that their main opponents vote bank is disturbed. In this aspect sheer luck seems to have favoured congress in Karnataka as the party in power-BJP had to engage all their vital energies to fight themselves vis-à-vis estranged erstwhile party leaders like - Yedyurappa, Mine Barons - Gali Clan more than their real opponents.

Election results in Karnataka are a clear indication of BJP's discomfiture sans its failed electoral strategy rather than their main opposition (now in power) congress's real positive vote or JD(S)'s strength or much hyped KJP of Yedyurappa. Voters in Karnataka gave a fitting reply to all political parties including the congress as political heavy weights in respective parties bit the dust in the electoral hustling like Eswarappa (Ex-BJP President), Parameswar (Congress President), Anita Kumara Sawmy (JD-S), Shobha Karandlaje (KJP). It should have been a win-win situation for congress as Kumara Swamy of JD (S) was also indicted by the Lokayukta of Karnataka on the lines of the then BJP-CM-Yedyurappa & Minister-Gali Janardhan Reddy amongst others, but it was not to be as votes polled in favour of BJP/KJP (Karnataka Janata Paksha-Yedyurappa) and BSR (Badavara Shramikara Raitara-Gali Clan) is any indication. Not to mention about JD(S) and other lead players (Samajwadi, BSP) independently in some of the constituencies. In a nutshell a gross introspection of the poll results by lead political parties in Karnataka would augur well for the people of Karnataka lest another turbulent phase could have been in store as internal dissensions ahead of CM's selection in congress as well as Lokayukta and other graft cases would haunt all the lead players as they reach a climax.

BJP fails to highlight fight against corruption-Pan India & in Karnataka too.....

UPA-II gave many opportunities to the combined opposition in the wake of many scams-right from common wealth games to the latest coal gate scam alongside graft charges against union ministers & son-in-law of Sonia Gandhi- Robert Vadera, but opposition parties including the principal opposition party-BJP & NDA could not effectively nail the ruling congress-UPA II to effectively translate them



into electoral gains in the recent times because of their inherent intricacies. The combined failure of the opposition to pin congress-UPA II gave it a breather of sorts ahead of many such situations like-Himachal Pradesh, Uttarhand & now Karnataka assembly elections where BJP was in power & lost the throne to congress party in-spite of glaring omissions and commissions surrounding UPA II of which congress is a principal party except the sole saving grace-Gujarat-Narendra Modi's charisma....BJP has a fight on its hands as Delhi, Rajasthan, Mizoram (where congress is in power), Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh (where BJP is in power) go to polls in this year ahead of parliament or general elections. BJP, as things stand now has a fair chance to come back to power in Rajasthan while it has to put up a united fight to clinch Delhi (a glaring failure of law & order & people's apathy to increase in power tariff's etc) while maintaining a combined thrust show casing it's inherent administrative strength in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh to retain power with popular CM's of BJP at the helm-Prithviraj Singh & Raman Singh respectively. BJP is in with a fair chance in these two states for the third term fighting any anti-incumbency off late because of certain issues concerning law & order like rape of a foreigner

in MP & Naxal menace in Chattisgarh alongside drought to name a few.

The same happened in Karnataka after BJP formed government in 2009 with a wafer thin majority. Instead of concentrating on good governance on which slogan it rode to power, it started poaching in the name of Akarshana lotus by CM-Yedyurappa to improve its tally. This led to unwanted financial consolidation listing mine barons like Gali clan to bail them out leading to unethical practices landing them in jail including the then CM-Yedyurappa's family, Gali Janardhan Reddy-Minister along with a scores of others from major political parties like-JD (S), Congress etc. The central leadership of BJP took time & allowed Yedyurappa group to dictate terms ruining the benefits of a clean administration resulting in chaos in the party hierarchy. Add to this the loss of morals amongst it's legislators (caught watching porn movies in assembly etc) have degraded the party alongside desertions after Yedyurappa's forced exit & Mine Baron-Gali clan's open dissensions. In-spite of this BJP had a clean face in the name of Jagadish Shettar as CM belonging to Lingayat community to lead them, but their failure to highlight action taken against the corruption in Karnataka & Pan-India as a whole has certainly dented its

image & chance of retaining power. Their failed strategy to nail Yedyurappa, Kumara Swamy & Congress facing many a corruption charges against its union ministers & PMO, Sonia Gandhi's family alongside graft charges against state congress leaders while critically failing to highlight their 5 year's achievements led to their electoral debacle in a fractured verdict. Even the verdict in the local body elections ahead of assembly elections couldn't make the think tanks of BJP to take a serious note of things coming ahead is something which the party has to seriously debate.

BJP's failure to connect with the people in-spite of glaring failures of congress-UPA II affected its chances

BJP's weakness of continuing Gadkari as it's National President in-spite of accusations & charges also severely dented their image in comparison to congress's attitude of getting some of their top leaders landing in jail like Suresh Kalmadi etc (all are out except for some after legalities) & making many a officials as scapegoats while coming to the rescue of tainted ministers like - Salman Kurshid, Ashwini Kumar etc. Even in the recent coal gate scam which hit the nation's headlines as parliament was forced to adjourn on the same alongside Supreme Court's serious indictment of CBI, Law Minister, Officials of PMO & Coal Ministry-BJP as a principal opposition couldn't take the issue forcefully to the people resulting in it's electoral debacle in Karnataka. Add to this precarious law & order situation in Delhi-Nirbhaya episode etc & all around the country along with spiraling prices of essential commodities with not so satisfying measures to tackle severe drought in many parts of the country couldn't come to the rescue of BJP as it failed to connect with the people as seen from the recent elections to assemblies cutting across the country.

As a principal opposition if BJP continues to fail, it would result in a monopolized administration often adding to the agony of a common man & as a result would never allow congress to refine itself by redefining its policies in the interest of people's welfare. Present situation in the principal opposition party-BJP looks like let congress commit as many mistakes as possible so that people fed up & with no alternative would vote for BJP-what a tragedy? Otherwise how can they redeem the situation except for adjournments of parliament & a token street fights...Can BJP's national bosses emulate their counterparts in A.P where the party seems to be marching ahead with a clear policy on Telangana alongside taking up various burning issues affecting the common man..? Can the top brass of BJP infuse that moral strength in a cadre based party across the country as the only alternative to congress by redefining their strategies with meaningful street fights resulting in a logical conclusion & also by announcing it's Prime Ministerial candidate or choice to clinch the issue inviting people's confidence & electoral gains ahead. ♦

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NATURAL AND THE ARTIFICIAL CO-EXISTENCE

By Jaywant Naidu

The word 'Robot' commonly evokes an image of a 'piece of steel' with two artificial eyes and a metallic voice. There are several classifications of robots. Industrial robots have been around for more than five decades now. This is the most matured field in robotics. Several industries have been using robots for quality and precision in manufacturing. The latest additions to the industrial robots category are medical robots. These robots assist doctors in tasks such as surgery or do precise X-rays. A mobile robot is another complex field of robotics. Mobile robots carry a battery on board for autonomy and power. Mobile robots can be both autonomous and semi-autonomous. Mobile robots can be classified as legged, wheeled, or tracked. Legged robots are further classified based on number of legs.

ROBOTICS SOCIETY OF INDIA:

In the last few years robotics activities in India has moved well beyond the traditional areas of industrial applications, atomic energy, etc. and entered newer domains of education, rehabilitation, entertainment, and even into our homes. Indian robotics researchers have similarly grown from a handful to over a hundred engaged in research labs, education, industry, atomic energy, etc. Many of us feel that it is about time to form an academic society to further augment our robotics activities and for better interaction among ourselves. With this objective the Robotics Society of India was formed on 10th July 2011.

Objectives:

- Encourage interaction between robotics researches in India (academic/R&D Labs/industry).
- Hold joint workshops and conferences at the national level.
- Associate with other organizations involved in Robotics like IEEE, ASME etc.
- Publish a newsletter, proceeding, Journals.

SOME APPLICATIONS:

- Industrial Robots • Small, Large, Paint & Special robots • Robot Controllers & Software

- Including "Next Generation" safety • Industrial Software Products • Programming, simulation, production monitoring • Application Equipment & Accessories • Including standard global cells & solutions

Applications by Industry : Automotive, Foundry & Forging, Metal Fabrication, Plastics, Packaging & Palletizing, Solar, Wood, Electrical & electronics (3C)

Service & Support : Service contracts, parts, training, used robots and productivity programs

THE FUTURE: Ever dreamed of a robot that cleaned your house, washed your car or walked the dog? Rapid developments have made robotic technology professions among the most exciting available to recent graduates positions within the robotics industry generally are the different stages of the engineering process. Robotics engineers design robots, maintain them, develop new applications for them, and conduct research to expand the potential of robotics. Visionary robotics engineers can work designing experimental mobile robots, with applications ranging from medical and military uses to designs aimed at creating vehicles capable of piloting themselves on other planets. More down-to-earth jobs involve designing new production-line robots, often with programmable arms, and maintaining and upgrading older production-line installations.

What will one have to do as a robotics engineer?

- Design ROBOTS • Research work on robotics applications in various fields. • Assist engineers in the design and application of robot systems • Inspect electronic components involved in production of robot' • Test robots for defects after manufacturer's assembly • Install robots or robot systems where required • Install robot safety systems • Provide assistance to users, including fine robots • Program robot for series of moves manually or by electronic instructions to a microprocessor or by setting up kinetic suits • Modify computer-controlled motion of robots •

Trouble shoot to determine robot malfunctions, using knowledge of microprocessors, programmable controllers, electronics, circuit analysis, mechanics, hydraulics, and pneumatics • Disassemble robots and/or peripheral equipment like circuit boards, sensors, controllers, encoders, servomotors, servo valves, or automatic lubrication systems • Reassemble robots • Train other technicians to operate, program, repair, and service robots • Keep records of test procedures and results, service schedules, repairs.

FUTURE OF ROBOTICS:

- Robots in Commerce -Retail, Services, Fields.
- Robots in the home – Maids, Washing Car, Doing Chores, Mowing the Lawn,
- Robots in Security – Guards, Guard Dogs, Bomb Sniffers, Bomb Squads,
- Robots to the Rescue – FEMA, Earthquake, Hurricanes, Wild Fires
- Robots for the Weather and Environment - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- Robots in Transportation-Light Rail, Cars, Aircraft
- Robots in Distribution – Trains, Warehouses
- Robotic Androids – Assistants, Mentors, Educators
- Robots and Artificial Intelligence – Thinking Machines and Systems
- Robots in the Military – Smart Munitions, Net-Centric Systems, UAVs

Robotics Courses in India

- Institutes Offering M.Tech in Robotics (INDIA ONLY):
- The Centre for Robotics and Mechatronics at IIT-Kanpur offers a master's programme in Robotics Engineering.
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata – 700032, offers M.E. Robotics.
- The University of Hyderabad offers M.Tech. In Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.

- University College of Engineering under Osmania University, Hyderabad, offers M.E. / M.Tech. In Automation and Robotics.
- M.S. University, Baroda, conducts a master's programme with specialization in automation control and robotics.
- The Institute of Technology under the Banaras Hindu University conducts M.Tech. Production Engineering/ Industrial Management Engineering with Robotics and Automation as electives.
- Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala- 147004, conducts M.E. in CAD/ CAM and Robotics.
- The Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani - 333031, offers M.E. in Computer Science with robotics as a subject.
- Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning Prasanthi Nilayam offers M.Tech. Computer Science with specialization in artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence is defined as the ability of an artificial mechanism to exhibit intelligent behaviour. It is closely associated with robotics.

- PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, conducts M.Tech. Mechanical with robotics as an elective subject.
- SRM institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram district, offers M.Tech. Robotics.
- The Department of Electronics under the Cochin University of Science and Technology offers M.Sc. Electronic Science with specialization in artificial intelligence, robotics, microwave electronics and computer technology. First-class B.Sc. degree holders with not less than 60 per cent aggregate marks in electronics / computer science / physics (with electronics) are eligible for admission. Selection is based on CUSAT-CAT.
- SASTRA, Thanjavur, affiliated to Bharatidasan University, offers a course in artificial intelligence at the Bachelor of Engineering degree-level.

M.Sc/MS Abroad: List of Colleges offering Robotics as a Subject abroad:

- MIT • Harvard University - United States • KING'S College London (University OF London) • Stanford University • University of Michigan • Carnegie Mellon University • Purdue University • Indiana University-Purdue University • Indiana State University • University of Pennsylvania • Staffordshire University • University of Southern California • Manchester Metropolitan University • University of Hertfordshire • Ivy Tech State College • University of West Florida

Part time robotics courses:

Robots at B.Tech level and another The Robotics Certification Standards Alliance (RCSA) recently started online course for robotics technician Robotics Technician Training & Certification (Distance) could be also considered.

CAREER PROSPECTS IN INDIA:

There are companies looking to develop Robotics in Indian even the recent Boom in automobile industry has bought many production line automation robots to India also there are indignant companies trying to explore the field of robotics. It's a growing industry and needs some professionals and their commitment to jumpstart into Robotics which is a good thing.

Robotics companies in India

- PARI Career prospects: "Link:- http://www.parirobotics.com/careers_a.html
- ABB:- Career prospects: -http://www.abb.co.in/c_awp/inabb511/6..._2571f5004524a8
- Tata:- Career prospects: <http://www.tataadvancedsystems.com/section.aspx?mld=4>
- Kuka Robotics: Career opportunities with them. <http://www.kuka-robotics.com/india/en/company/career/>
- Hi-Tech Robotic Systemz Limited (HRSL): Robotics&AI, Engineer Robotics & AI. <http://www.hitechroboticsystemz.com/careers.asp>
- DiFACTO Robotics and Automation: <http://www.difacto.com/careers.html>

<http://www.difacto.com/careers.html>

Defence Robotics: Does the mention of UAV's, UCAV's and Combat Robotics excite you? Well unlike popular belief there is a lot going on in India. Though we do not many field deployed robotics solutions like some Countries. DRDO has a whole arsenal of robots to tackle various situations and problems.

DRDO also whole institutes dedicated to building intelligent systems and Robots. The Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) is a laboratory of the DRDO. Established in October 1986. Its research focus was initially in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, and Control systems.

PROBLEMS:

In India, robotics attracts lot of bright and young students and teachers alike, but does not cross a basic level of complexity of design due to several factors. Robotic contests continue to set simpler targets to ensure participation in the face of factors like cost of building and time. Industry investments are also low due to long-term investment of both money and time. Cost of good quality sensors and actuators are presently high, though they have seen a steady decline in pricing and an increase in reliability due to MEMS (micro electro-mechanical sensors) based chips. Sensors will continue to evolve in smaller form factors and low cost, as more advances are made in MEMS and nanotechnology based sensors in the next decade. Building robots require multidisciplinary engineers and skills in mechanical, electronic, and software engineering. Research in Indian colleges, including that in premier institutions, focuses mainly in areas of robotics that is specific to their respective engineering field. Cross-discipline collaboration can change the way robotic research is done and can move a step closer towards useful applications.

So is it Man Vs Machine! Or Man and Machine?✦

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Govindaraja Swamy Temple Brahmotsavams

The Annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple in Tirupati will take place from May 17th to May 25th said TTD EO Sri L.V.Subramanyam. He has released the posters and Book lets of Brahmotsavams on Friday at his bungalow in Tirupati. Speaking on this occasion he said that special programs such as cultural and spiritual will be organized by TTDs Hindu



Dharma Prachara Parishad, Dasa Sahithya Project and Annamacharya Project during Brahmotsavam.

TTD is all set to organise these brahmotsavams in a grand manner. As a part of this mega religious fete, there will be Dwajarojanam on May 17, Garuda Seva on May 21st, Rathotsavam on May 24th and Chakrasnanam on May 25th said the EO.



ASTRO FOCUS

May 12 - 18, 2013

Aries: You may get some relief during this week in respect of financial affairs, positive indications are there. On career front, you will witness some improvement. Positive events will be more than the negative events. Competitive sports and outdoor activities will attract you. In There may be difference of opinion with your Love/ spouse on one issue or other.

Taurus: This week a rendezvous with an influential person provides you with new direction and goals. Meanwhile, moneymaking ventures that you undertake this week. Businesspersons will get considerable profits despite stiff competition. You will win lots of appreciation for your creativity. By focusing on your goals you will send a signal of your commitment and dedication.

Gemini: This week you need to listen to your instincts when it comes to financial matters. Your mind will be capable of taking quick decisions, but financial risk should not be taken without a second opinion. Unexpected good news from distant relatives would bring happy moments for the entire family. Spend quality time with loved ones.

Cancer: You will move with new confidence and will have an urge to learn more. This week is a good time for job hunters. Utilize every opportunity that comes into your way. Businesspersons will flourish well despite stiff competition. Difference of opinion between the couples is quiet possible. Health might disturb you this week so take care of you health.

Leo: Professionally and financially things look much brighter and you will be required to complete many important projects in hand. Your love/spouse will help you to taking any major decision. Minor health problems due to untimely food habits cannot be ruled out.

Virgo: This week can be termed as an excellent one for majority of the natives. Financial inflow will be more than your expenditure. Some good event revitalizes your energy. You would move ahead with the right initiative and finish off many pending proposals and jobs. You will also make some adjustments with yourself to maintain peace and harmony at home. Health might remain good in this week.

Libra: You will be putting in a lot of hours at work or on projects that are important for your career. You will acquire a lot of knowledge if you observe others. You would be rewarded handsomely for your efforts. Your luck is better and your financial status will give your gain in this week. Your relationship will be stronger and you might go on date with your partner at the end of this week.

Scorpio: A stable period of growth and prosperity sees you shine with new confidence and enthusiasm. Your decisions would be widely accepted by people around you. Improvement in finances is certain and you are likely to spend on family members and luxuries. Your dreams might come true in this week. New partnerships and contacts will prove to be beneficial. There is no threat to you health except minor problems.

Sagittarius: Businessmen will explore new and more profitable avenues. Interacting with eminent people would bring you good ideas and plans. There may be some difference of opinion with your Love / spouse. Handle situations with care and caution. You might get some tension and it will affect to your health.

Capricorn: His week your dedication and hard work puts you in the limelight. Although finances will not be managed easily, but you will receive immense recognition and appreciation for your efforts. Gains from past investments will brighten up your days ahead. The cosmic weather is gradually changing which would bring benefits for you especially in your career. Lovebirds will have a fabulous time and some will commit themselves to a matrimonial alliance.

Aquarius: Your analytical skills will help you get everything done on time and eventually success will be yours. Your personality would have a magnetic appeal, which would easily attract the right people. Put maximum efforts on creative projects, which promise you long-term gains. You will be able to complete the left over tasks with much ease and less effort. Romance would flourish as your beloved brings you gifts and expensive presents.

Pisces: Your creative ability will flourish during this period and your determination will defeat your opponents. Put your time and efforts on important projects. Your bank balance may increase due to recovery of old dues. You would also make certain changes, which would make you feel good about yourself. Distance yourselves from women as your personal image may be at state.

SUDOKU 269

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

How to play : Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You cant change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

ANSWERS Sudoku-268

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

Answer 268 : M Jaganatham, Gandhinagar

Laugh out loud

Teacher: Tell me the name of any Microsoft Product?

Bunty: MS Excel

Lucky: MS Word

Bittu: MS Powerpoint

Pappu after thinking a lot, "MS Dhoni"

A crow shits on Banta. Preeto gives tissue paper to him.

Banta: Koi phayda nahin, kauwa toh ud gaya!

Santa: Oh yaar main badi mushkil mein hoon. Meri biwi mujhse ek pappi ka Ek rupaya leti hai.

Banta: Oh yaar tu lucky hai,

auron se to woh 5 rupaye leti hai.

Banta: Jab main paida hua tha to military walon ne 21 topein chalayeen thi.

Santa: Kamaal hai ! Sab ka nishana chook gaya ?

PRINCIPAL :Agar koi ladka girls hostel mein gaya to first time 100 Rs fine, 2nd time 200 Rs. Fine and 3rd time 500.

MUNNA BHAI :Boley to Monthly paas ka kya ley ga Mamu

Tech support: Your password is the small letter "a" as in apple, a capital letter V as in Victor, the

number 7.

Customer: Is that 7 in capital letters?

Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.

Pathan girl friend ko ghar

Le gaya,

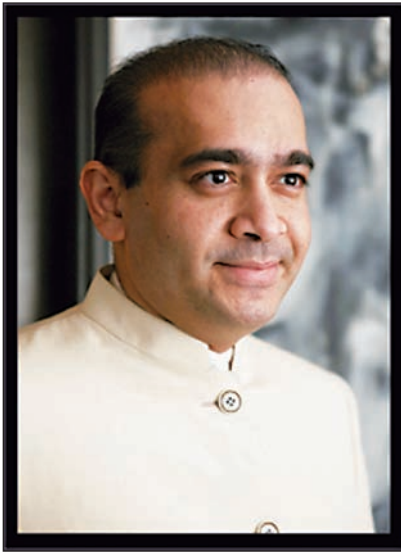
Sab darwaze khirkiyan

band kardin,

Parde gira diye light off kar

k us k pass aya aur kaha :

dekho humara watch main light jalta hai.



Become change agents in society

business model has put us firmly on our way towards becoming significant players in the gems and jewelry industry.

What have been your diversification plans?

Wind energy, according to research reports, has the capability to supply more than 5 times of the planet's current energy use in all forms. The wind energy sector has grown multi-fold in the last few years and, with an unlimited and eco-friendly source, we believe it has the power to transform our lives for the better. Our initial foray into the Renewable Energy space has been in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan (India), where we have set up a wind power plant. Comprising several Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), the purpose of the project is to generate Electricity using a clean and renewable source of energy.

Do you work towards spreading your success in society?

The Nirav Modi Foundation is a registered charitable trust that is committed to empowering underprivileged communities. The Foundation's flagship program, 'Paramonnati', identifies and assists exceptionally talented children from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Foundation aims to support and mentor these children until they secure their futures, financially and socially. Furthermore, it aspires to nurture a sense of social awareness in these scholars so that they become leaders, change agents, and mentors for their respective communities. In addition to the scholarship program, the Foundation endeavours to support

other effective initiatives in the areas of Health, Senior Citizen Support, and Education.

Nirav Modi Foundation also launched its prestigious 'Nirav Modi Scholarship for Excellence' primarily to support academically bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It does not just support students financially but also undertakes variety of activities to nurture their talents and to enhance their personality. 'Nirav Modi Scholarship for Excellence' provides opportunities to students having proven bright academic performance throughout their school education to pursue their higher education in competitive fields of Engineering, Medicine, Architecture, and Chartered Accountancy. This scholarship helps students having sheer talent and perseverance to achieve their dreams of becoming true change agents in the society.

We are very happy to share that in the current academic year 2012-13 "Nirav Modi Scholarship for Excellence" has been awarded to 116 selected scholars studying in various academic institutions across Maharashtra.

How modern are your facilities in this trade?

In Surat, India, we have a fully-equipped machine shop, continuous casting, a metal assaying machine, and an in-house refinery. It is used for jewelry manufacturing and is strategically located in India's diamond and jewelry manufacturing hub. In Mumbai, India, we Specialize in diamond-intensive and high-end bridal jewelry. It has a dedicated Product

Development team that leverages CAD/CAM technology to create original, innovative designs and meet the demanding needs of today's customers. CAD/CAM design technology enables our designers to simplify the iterative design process and easily modify details of sketches thereby minimizing production times. Rapid prototyping technologies are additive processes that fabricate parts, layer by layer, called Layer Manufacturing. They enable our designers to create parts with small internal cavities and complex geometries.

What about the facilities abroad?

In Yerevan, Armenia, we are one of the biggest employers in the gems and jewelry industry. Yerevan facility engages over 100 skilled Armenian craftsmen and is strategically located to leverage an Armenian tradition of high-quality diamond manufacturing. Spread over 40,000 sq feet, this manufacturing center is equipped with state-of-the-art machinery, which includes auto-blockers and auto-bruiling machines for higher productivity.

Products manufactured at this facility include Ideal Cuts with GIA Hearts, and Arrows with rounds EXEXEX, princess EXEX, and other special cuts. It also serves as a source of specialized cuts for renowned retailers. Future plans include the development of a world-class training center to provide improved employment opportunities for the local community. ♦

- JAYWANT NAIDU
mail@deccanpost.net

Nirav Modi, well known Diamond magnate spoke exclusively to Deccan Post about his tryst with the sparkling carbon business.

How did you get into design and aesthetics?

I grew up in Europe and my mother has been an Interior Designer and visited many art museums with her in Rome, Paris and Vienna.

How has your growth been in business?

We started as a 15-person operation in a modest office, at a time when the Gems and Jewelry industry was in decline. Today, it is more than 1,300 personnel global enterprise.

What has been your USP?

Our unconventional approaches, unrelenting focus on innovation and excellence, and superior ability to identify business opportunities have enabled us to expand rapidly, organically as well as inorganically. Today, our

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Andrea's performance impress Nagarjuna



Actress Andrea Jeremiah, who has been well known to the Telugu audience for her role in the Selvaraghavan's "Yuganiki Okkadu", will soon be seen in Naga Chaitanya and Sunil's "Tadakha" which is directed by Kishore Pardasani. She is pairing up opposite Sunil in the movie. The singer-actress-dubbing artist, who wears her many hats with élan seems to have impressed a lot of people associated with the project.

At a recent interaction with the media, Sunil and Tamannaah heaped praises on her saying that she has delivered a good performance. Later, producer Bellamkonda Suresh revealed another interesting aspect about the actress. Talking to the media, he said, "It's her first film in Telugu, Andrea has done a very good role. Recently, when Nagarjuna saw the film, he was highly impressed with her performance and told me to cast her in another film."

It remains to be seen what film Andrea bags in Telugu next. On the other hand, she has recently signed a Malayalam film titled London Bridge opposite Prithivraj and she'll also be seen in Kamal Haasan's Vishwaroopam 2 and Endrendrum Punnagai.

Veena Malik loves all Khans

Praising actor Saif Ali Khan's sense of style, Pakistani model-turned-actress Veena Malik Wednesday voiced her aspirations of working with all the three Khans of Bollywood.

"I would like a bit of Shah Rukh (Khan), a bit of Salman (Khan) and a bit of Aamir Khan. I would go with Aamir



for his acting, Shah Rukh for his romance and Salman's Dabangg style," Malik told reporters during a media conference to promote her forthcoming movie "Zindagi 50-50".

"Zindagi 50-50", scheduled for a May 24 release, will see Veena Malik in the role of a sex worker opposite actors Rajan Verma, Rajpal Yadav and Riya Sen.

I love his sense of style. Its quite natural, he is a nawab... If a nawab doesn't know how to dress, then who will? He is a very stylish guy and in that way I think Kareena (Kapoor) is lucky," said Malik.

-DP Desk



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Market rallies to scale the new heights

By V Sundar Raja

The stock market soared further to extend its rally to new highs and has witnessed the best performance in the current year. Market could erase the previous losses that were seen in the first quarter and is now at the yearly high and at the major psychological barrier of 20,000 levels.

Market revival to uptrend was possible due to strong American market, and also due to strong buying by the Foreign Institutional buyers in the last few weeks. The week has witnessed seen positive news for the economy. The RBI on 3rd May has reduced the Bank's Repo rate by a 25 basis points, to boost the Indian economic growth, but cautioned that there may not be immediate further rate cuts.

The IIP (industrial production) data for the month of March, released on 10th May was reported at 2.5% as against the earlier rate of 0.6%, which shows a good growth in the Industrial growth and is a positive sign for the economy and the stock market.

The country's major financial institution, HDFC has reported strong financial performance providing major boost to the market, while the financial quarterly results of the many Indian companies were reported at better than expectations. Market is now keenly awaiting the results of the leading Bank, the State Bank of India (SBI), in the next few days,



which is expected to provide a trigger to the next direction of the banking sector stocks.

The precious commodity Gold, is seen struck in a narrow range in-between the barrier of 27,500 and support of 26,500 in the MCX commodity market. The commodity has to sustain above the current barrier of 27,500 for a short-term uptrend, for the traders to be alert.

Another precious metal Silver, is currently seen consolidating at Rs 45,000 levels, and is seen in a technical oversold position, indicating a possible relief rally. It has to sustain above the nearest resistance of Rs 46,000 to indicate a short-term uptrend, for



the traders to be prepared.

Many of the leading base metals like Copper, Zinc, Lead, Nickel and Aluminum are seen making minor recovery at the current levels, after an earlier bearish trend. Indian rupee is seen making three week lows and has the next barrier of 55 in the currency market. In-case of a further breach of 55 marks, then it indicates a possible further appreciation of the Dollar.

Crude Oil has seen a very strong recovery from 4,700 Rupees to current 5,200 levels, in the last few weeks. In-case of any further strength at the current levels, then it can continue the upward march and has the next

major resistance at 5,400 levels.

Sensex, now has the next major resistance at 20,000 levels, where there can be a short-term pause to the current uptrend, due to technical overbought position. Market has witnessed a rally of nearly 2,000 points continuously and has to consolidate in the near term, before taking next direction. It has to sustain above the crucial barrier of 20,000 in the next few days, to continue the upward trend. ♦

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

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