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# Sonia decisive on Telangana this time

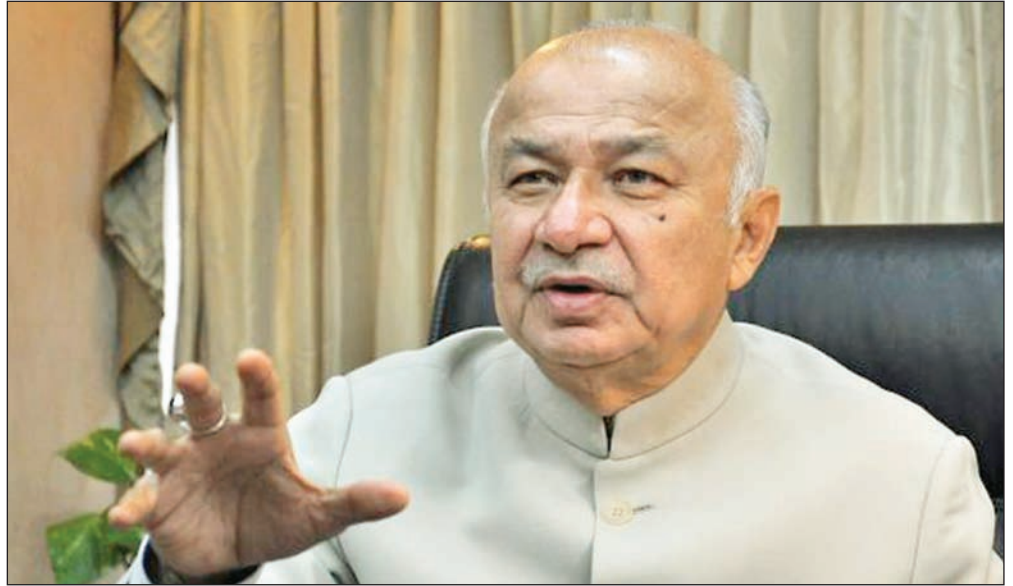
**By Our Political Correspondent**

This time, the Congress high command seems to be very decisive on carving out a separate Telangana state out of the 56 year old Andhra Pradesh state comprising of Telangana and Andhra regions. Unlike in the past, the party leadership is appearing determined to resolve the long pending issue, especially party chief Sonia Gandhi seems like almost made up her mind to divide AP, in tune with the wishes of over four crore people of Telangana, a promise she made to them three and a half years ago that too sentimentally linked to her birthday on 9th December, 2009. Indications available till now suggest that the upcoming meeting of Congress Working Committee (CWC) which may meet in the next 10 days, is expected to finalize the roadmap for formation of a new state out of Andhra Pradesh.

*Contd. on page 2*







Two scenarios are appearing loud and clear - first one being, the new state with 10 Telangana districts with Hyderabad as its capital. The next scenario is adding of two Rayalaseema districts - Kurnool and Anantapur - to the 10 Telangana districts and Hyderabad as its capital. In either case, Andhra Pradesh is bound to be divided into two and Seemandhra region will have a separate entity. A majority of Congress leaders from Kurnool and Anantapur are known to be secretly wishing that Rayala-Telangana becomes a reality.

According to sources, Union Minister of state for Railways - Kotla Surya Prakash Reddy, and state ministers TG Venkatesh, Erasu Pratap Reddy belonging to Kurnool and N Raghuvendra Reddy belonging to Anantapur districts have already conveyed their willingness for Rayala Telangana, by merging Kurnool and Anantapur districts with Telangana. Only hardcore elements like minister S

Shailajanath and MP Ananta Venkata Reddy said to be close to Late YSR are opposing this move. But, they are in minority.

The Congress high command has decided to go ahead with the process of formation of separate state as it would best serve its political interests in the run up to the next general elections in 2014. By setting in motion the process, the party feels that it can neutralize three significant political rivals - YS Jaganmohan Reddy's YSRCP in coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema, K Chandrasekhar Rao's TRS in Telangana and N Chandrababu Naidu's TDP in both the regions.

A strong indication to this effect was available when Andhra Pradesh Assembly speaker Nadendla Manohar who was ostensibly summoned by the union government called on Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi on Thursday. Even after Manohar, who represents Tenali constituency from

Guntur, in coastal Andhra, tried to explain opposition to any moves to divide the State; Sonia Gandhi is learnt to have told him to get ready for a special session on Telangana.

When enquired, Manohar declined to reveal to media the details of his meeting with Sonia, but sources close to him confirmed that the Congress president had probed about the possibility of AP Assembly passing a resolution on bifurcation of the State. It appears that high command has almost decided to push Telangana issue in the house for a possible debate, though not sure of the outcome. This Assembly resolution part is one of the 12 steps in 215 days roadmap that was circulated by AICC general secretary Digvijay Singh to the three state leaders at the Congress core committee meeting in Delhi on July 12th. Though, no source is attributed to the roadmap, Singh told the state leaders that it was prepared by legal experts in the Union Home Ministry.

According to the roadmap, that currently became a major debating issue in Hyderabad, at least 7 months and 5 days are needed to complete the process for formation of Telangana state. The process will begin only after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) which is expected to meet by July 28th, resolves in favour of Telangana state creation. As per the party roadmap, Step 1 (10 days) for AP assembly passing a resolution for Telangana state, Step 2 (30 days) for the union cabinet preparing a note, Step 3 (90 days) for the home ministry setting up a Group of Ministers (GoM), Step 4 (15 days) for GoM's recommendation, Step 5 (7 days), for the cabinet nod, Step 6 (2 days) to refer the matter to AP Assembly for 2nd time. Step 7 (30 days) for AP Assembly passing a resolution after discussing the arrangements finalized by the union cabinet, Step 8 (7 days) on the union law ministry preparing a draft Bill, Step 9 (5 days) for the union cabinet okaying the draft Bill,







Step 10 (2 days) for Lok Sabha passing the Bill, Step 11 (15 days) Assembly passing the Bill and Step 12 (2 days) for the presidential assent to the Bill.

Now, the leaders of both the sides (for and against the division of AP) are intensely studying and discussing the ways and means to overcome hurdles in the roadmap to their advantage. "This clearly shows that Telangana is going to be a reality soon. Once the CWC passes a resolution on Telangana, the roadmap comes into effect," Deputy CM Damodar Rajanarsimha said. But, Damodar or many of Telangana Congress leaders have no objection, if the Centre prefers Rayala Telangana, which includes Kurnool and Anantapur districts. This new proposed state will have larger number of MPs (21) and MLAs (147). "We need not bother that our new state would be a smaller one," a senior Congress leader who wished not to be quoted said.

The response of Congress is almost positive to Rayala Telangana. But, that

of Jagan's YSR Congress, TDP and TRS are obviously negative to this new idea. Jagan's YSRC party will almost become irrelevant in Rayala Telangana, also will be weaker in Seemandhra – since coastal Andhra plus two Rayalaseema districts of Kadapa and Chittoor will have changed equations. It is expected that except in Kadapa, Jagan may not be able to have any influence in Seemandhra post state division. That would be a disadvantage to him as he is keen on becoming the CM of at least the new Andhra state that will have 11 districts. The people of Coastal Andhra with 9 districts may not allow someone from Kadapa to dominate them. The current leadership of TDP led by Chandrababu Naidu is likely to face grave challenges in both the regions, because of its ambivalence stand to the separate statehood demand.

The TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao is naturally a worried man as his clout will drastically go down in the new state of Rayala Telangana. Already, TRS is limited to a few areas in

Telangana region and not a major force in parts of the region like Khammam, Nalgonda (except for Aler and Bhongir belt) and Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy districts. Sulking over the attitude of Congress high command which had ignored him completely in the present process of taking a decision on Telangana, KCR has decided not to merge his party with Congress for the time being. At the same time, he wants to emerge as a major force in the Telangana of 10 districts. But, Rayala Telangana will play spoilsports to his dreams as TRS has a zero presence in Kurnool and Anantapur which have 4 MP seats and 28 MLAs seats.

This discomfort and unease of these three parties – TDP, TRS and YSR Congress – perfectly fits the bill of Congress and Sonia Gandhi for deciding in favour of Rayala Telangana. Moreover, the MIM is now strongly favouring Rayala Telangana as it would protect the interests of Muslims, who are concentrated in this region. Actually, the MIM has been facing a lot of

problems on account of its proximity with Jagan's YSRC party but now is ready to dump Jagan in favour of Congress as it suits its purpose. To justify supporting congress, the MIM will claim to ally with Congress on the pretext of preventing BJP's Narendra Modi from emerging stronger. Besides when the state is being divided, there is no benefit in rallying with Jagan's YSRC party which is a non entity in T-region. Not to forget the bitterness MIM has for Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy, for his actions that caused both top leaders to spend time in jail. Now, the Owaisi Brothers are keen to have Telangana state to see the end of arrogant Rayalaseema leaders.

By opting for Rayala Telangana, Sonia can also please her Muslim vote bank and get back an ally, MIM too. That way, UPA will get one more ally to support the PM candidacy of Rahul Gandhi. This is a win-win situation to Sonia Gandhi. ♦

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# Now or Never for CWC (Congress) & UPA On Telangana

By Dr.T.Siva Prasad Reddy-Special Correspondent

Present situation in the state favouring T state as all Parties have reiterated their support in deference of historical yet conditional unification: Unlike post December-9-2009, the situation in the state looks pretty much in favour of a Telangana state and the division of the state looks very certain. It would be a smooth affair than what is being feared or than what is being projected by a dominant seemandhra media since congress core committee meeting. All the constituent parties from different regions in the state have been made part of wider consultations to evolve a much desired consensus favouring division of the state to respect a long pending demand of people of Telangana region. The word consensus in this case assumes significance as it makes all the concerned to understand the historical background of unification of erstwhile Hyderabad (capital-Hyderabad) state with the then Andhra state (capital-Kurnool). Add to this the recent statements of support Favouring Telangana by TDP-N Chandra Babu Naidu while campaigning for local bodies-Panchayat Raj,YSR-CP,BJP,CPI, LokSatta & even CPI(M) exhorting UPA-Congress conveys the same & the inevitable-a Telangana/Hyderabad state. As it is only demerger of erstwhile Hyderabad state with its defined boundaries & natural resources while implying the same to seemandhra region & with a distinct advantage of a new capital city with lots of funds & infrastructure.

One should be magnanimous and truthful to understand the situation then and the present as it would lay bare all the facts of non-honour or failed implementation of a conditional merger of Hyderabad state with Andhra to form

Andhra Pradesh. No one should dare to mislead youth and people of seemandhra region by presenting everything other than the facts to engage them in a contentional mode to further their vested interests as ahs been witnessed in the very recent past. This has not only ignited artificial passions in seemandhra region but at the same time resulted in youth resorting to suicides in Telangana region as the formation of T state got delayed thereby causing a sense of uncertainty leading to insecure feelings. Even then and inspite of inflamed statements by seemandhra leaders and businessmen ably helped by seemandhra media to create a artificial hype-the agitation in Telangana region more or less remained peaceful and sedate not missing the attention of one and all in the country and the world. This too even when their rights to a peaceful protest were subjugated to police repression and foisting of cases against them. One should not take a lead to disturb order in the society by engaging people in the name of regions and that too on a non-issue and by also failing to honour or respect the then conditional merger.

Erstwhile Hyderabad now Telangana lost its share of natural resources-gravity water etc by merger..?! Protagonists of Telangana/Hyderabad state are the real integrationists as they fought against Nizam to get the then Hyderabad country to join/integrate with the Indian union with a hope that their right over their natural resources are assured by a democratic administration. Their rejoice of enjoying such fortune was cut short forcibly or rather by a measured diplomacy in the name of linguistic chauvinism to really disintegrate a world class cosmopolitan Hyderabad state. Indeed it was and is a different



culture-a typical hyderabad (distinct telangana-telugu & urdu) with a blend of deccan plateau (kannada, Marathi, Konkani, noth to name a few). As if to bless such culture nature bestowed the region with many resources like water-krishna & Godavari rivers criss crossing the region, mines-coal, limestone, granite etc from Adilabad to Nalgonda belt to name a few. Many projects to tap gravity water were on pipeline on Godavari a Krishna, Musi rivers as the now famed Babli or Alamatti were in erstwhile Hyderabad region. How and why these regions were separated from erstwhile Hyderabad state at the time of merger and at whose expense while benefitting whom would lead to a justified conclusion. This would certainly benefit Hyderabad or a Telangana state by deriving sympathy

from all quarters at the same time exposing all such who are now trying to raise their voice for their vested & selfish interests. What happened to immense resource-mines-coal, limestone (cement industry) etc? Singareni is nationalized (depriving its natural share of utilization in all respects) while large treasure of limestone area in nalgonda is becoming a history by Pulichintala project by a forceful submersion to benefit Andhra.

Add to that the image and envious land bank of Hyderabad (capital city then) along with world class facilities then (compare it with the then capital of Andhra-Kurnool or any other city in their region) alongside its rich distinct culture with scenic beauty atmosphere dotted with gravity filling drinking water





reservoirs like Osmansagar (Gandipet), Himayathsagar etc with the then world class water filters like miralam tank etc. and world class underground drainage facilities. Heritage famed structures hosting hospitals(osmania etc) then & now, High Court-then & now, Assembly-then & now except for few cosmetic changes with multifaceted musi river traversing through dividing the city leading to a lot of greenery (baghs all around) alongside many major fresh water tanks-hussainsagar, sarooragar, neredmet to name a few (as many have been reduced to dwellings/commercials after merger destroying the Hyderabad environment) to create a healthy & recreational environment all around for the people of twin cities to breathe fresh air. Add to that many famed public sector

units providing assured employment greeted Hyderabad city/state then..! Is it the same Hyderabad now?How many new government or public sector units have been established in & around Hyderabad since it's merger?How many aborigine-erstwhile hyderabadis/telanganites benifitted from such since it's merger? What was the revenue then & now after all the bonhomie to the state exchequer? Who are the major beneficiaries in the so called development? How could one deviate from the principles of conditional merger with vast natural resources of Hyderabad state or telangana region including that of Hyderabad City?!What happened to Telangana Development Board with separate budget?What happened to that now?Is it not true that Telangana region

till 1972 had a surplus budget with separate status along with Hyderabad city?!Compared to that what was the realistic situation in Seemandhra then & now?What was their revenue share then & now in comparision to erstwhile Hyderabad/Telangana region.

Who are the major benefactors of all such so called reforms or developments in all fields?What is the major or net gain for Telangana region over the years in comparision to seemandhra region?It would be endless if one has to quantify the injustice meted out to erstwhile Hyderabad/Telangana region by utilizing the very own natural resources..These historical yet truthful facts have to be borne in mind before one engages themselves.

Selective leaks of core committee presentation of thousands of crores packages also confirms the dreaded backwardness of Telangana region since it's merger with Andhra inspite of it's vast natural resources & a clear surplus budget before & after merger till 1972 & even now when one considers the factual revenue collections from 9 Telangana districts in comparision to seemandhra region while Hyderabad then & now always remained the same but the major gains being accrued by some seemandhra politico-business-administrative-media lobby. Investments & the revenue collections from the same regions would expose the facts & nails the lie of equi distribution of funds leading to development on par alongside grounding of various schemes by union government alongside actual sharing of water resource as per CWC(Central Water Authority)

allotment, Employment oppurtunities to the aborigines (telanganites) would certainly expose the myth of all round development of erstwhile Hyderabad/Telangana region once for all.

When such is the scenario even today since Hyderabad's merger in 1956,then how can the so called packages etc would help Telangana to have a guaranteed sustainance? How can such packages benefit Telangana when the past deliberate failures to honour or to implement all such agreements from 1956 onwards till date-610 G.O.,14(f) (implementation on ground) etc are very glaringly evident?That too again under seemandhra rulers..?!One has to understand that the demand for Telangana state is borne out of such impositions to have a "self rule over the treasured natural resources with self respect".This has been proved time & again by the people of T region in exercising their franchise in favour of those who truthfully espoused the cause of a 'TELANGANA' state in a democratic way.UPA-Congress should take the lead lest people of T region may loose faith in all & it would also politically benefit them in the south in all respects.

Now it is for all those to decide whether they would wish to uphold principles of Democracy by honouring a majority public wish of Telangana region so ostensibly & constitutionally presented in various fora & in various ways over the years by eschewing the peaceful path as shown by our Father of the Nation-Mahatma Gandhi as true integrationists adhering to sovereignty of this great country. ♦

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# NEET Verdict is not so NEAT

The Supreme Court verdict delivered on 18th July, quashing the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) is a cause for cheer to the managements of private unaided medical colleges. It is also a boon to the owners of coaching centers which thrive on the loopholes of the separate entrance tests held by different states. But, not definitely a good news to lakhs of students who burn their midnight oil to make to the tough medical entrance tests to become doctors in their lives. In the name of allowing private medical colleges, an unbridled freedom and liberty to conduct their own tests and make admissions in their choice, the SC has scuttled the prospects of a uniform test for medical seats.

The judgment delivered by a 2-1 majority bench headed by Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir and Vikramjit Sen (who endorsed it) and AR Dave (dissenting) brought curtains on the long drawn battle between the private college managements and the Medical Council of India (MCI) which made frantic attempts to streamline the MBBS admissions for over two years.

The MCI has been in the dock since its disgraced chairman Ketan Desai was arrested in a bribery scam two years ago. The MCI has also noticed many anomalies in the common entrance tests held by the different state governments



and found that the students who followed the CBSE syllabus had not many seats to compete with at the national level.

Hence, the MCI in association with the Union HRD Ministry has brought up a proposal to conduct a Nation-wide common entrance test, named as NEET, two years ago. But, many state governments including Andhra Pradesh have opposed it on the ground that the test would infringe on their rights and that their own tests would become redundant.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought and obtained special permission from the apex court to be exempted from

NEET last year and also this year. Though, the courts allowed exemption last year, they have given no such relief this year. As a result, around 1.5 lakh students from AP have appeared for both EAMCET and NEET this year, facing many difficulties. This judgment has made NEET irrelevant, if a student wanted to seek an admission based on his or her EAMCET rank. At the same time, this verdict also has affected another eight lakh students who had appeared for NEET this summer. Now, the 31,000 MBBS and another 5,000 PG medical seats will be filled up based on local entrance tests and procedures.

However, the judgment is not clear on many aspects like the need to have an

All-India level common entrance test for medical admissions, a proposal pending for long. The SC ruling that private medical colleges can have their own tests, whether individually or in groups of 10 or 20 colleges may go against the interests of majority of the students.

Already, there are doubts over the verdict, delivered on the last day of the office of outgoing Chief Justice of India - Altamas Kabir and the Government of India is planning to seek a revision. It is advisable to have a comprehensive strategy to deal with medical admissions, a sensitive issue, instead of coming up with quick-fix solutions. ♦

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## Congress to continue its 'Soap Opera' over Telangana

Now with the present political situation in the state of Andhra Pradesh, your last week's cover story perfectly fits the bill. The congress party is avoiding to take any decision on granting statchood to Telangana. It's the most contentious issue since decades and the congress party is using the Telangana sentiment as and when it wants and dumping in the cold storage once the desired task is achieved. I still remember how the congress high command managed to tackle the Jagan menace by making KCR to go onto a fast unto death and later making its announcement through the then Home Minister P Chidambaram on 9th December, 2009. It was clear in the Home Minister's statement that a separate state of Telangana will be created and the process for the same will be initiated. But since

then on the congress party high command has just passed the time by forming Sri Krishna Committee which was of no use to any of the stake holders. Congress party and its so called leaders are confusing the people as well as the politicians. I appeal the decision makers in the Congress party through Deccan Post to stop this drama and take a firm decision soon or else it will pay the price.

*Dr U Meenakshi, Basheerbagh*

## SC verdict needs to be specific

I really liked your last week's editorial article which focused on the pros and cons of the Supreme Court's verdict on banning the convicts to contest elections for the state legislatures and parliament. I am of the opinion that this verdict can be misused by the ruling parties to trouble the other candidates who have the potential to defeat its candidates. I think there should be specification of crimes and heinous people who indulged in crimes like Rape, Murder, Dacoity, Terrorism, Kidnapping, Goondasim and

**letters**  
TO THE EDITOR



war against the nation should be barred from contesting elections and the political parties also should not encourage them in any manner. I believe that there would be a strong threat that even innocent and honest candidates can be implicated in false and fake cases just for winning the elections and it would be an infringement of the constitutional rights of the citizens. The Apex court should review its decision

in the interest of democracy.

*Hanumanth Rao, Nallakunta*

## Jagan worried about his fate

With the latest decision of the Supreme Court, it appears that many politicians from Andhra Pradesh state are going to face a tough time. Politicians like Kadapa MP YS Jagan, tainted ministers like Sabitha Indra Reddy, Dharmana Prasad Rao, Mopidevi Venkataramana, Parthasarathy, etc. will not be able to contest the next general elections if the Supreme court verdict will be enacted in letter and spirit. But it appears that the congress party will come to the rescue of its partymen by coming out with a legislation or ordinance in the upcoming Monsoon session of the parliament starting from 5th August. Many politicians are opposing this decision openly and off the record. Hope good and honest people will contest the next elections and give responsible representation to its electors.

*Vaidehi Naidu, E-mail*

Readers are requested to send in their feedback to [mail@deccanpost.net](mailto:mail@deccanpost.net)



# Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao passes away

By Shivkant Bichkunda



Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to assign him the portfolio of Major Industries and Commerce.

Inspired by the entry of Telugu film actor K Chiranjeevi into politics from the film industry, Vidyadhara Rao snapped his two-and-a-half decade long association with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and joined hands with him in launching the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP). Later, Vidyadhara Rao switched to the ruling Congress along with Chiranjeevi when the PRP was merged into the congress party.

The sudden demise of Kotagiri has shocked many leaders who condoled his sudden demise. Several political leaders paid rich tributes to the departed soul. Union Tourism Minister K Chiranjeevi has rushed to Eluru from Delhi immediately upon learning the news of Kotagiri's death. Union Minister Kavuri Sambasiva Rao, State Ministers Bosta Satyanarayana, C Ramchandraiah, Kanna Laxminarayana, Ganta Srinivas, Vatti Vasanth Kumar and senior congress leader Dr KVP Ramchander Rao visited the residence of late Kotagiri Vidyadher Rao to condole his death. Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy paid rich tributes and ordered the district administration to accord a state funeral to the departed leader. Speaker Nadendla Manohar and former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu paid rich tributes recalling the services of the departed leader.

Many leaders cutting across the party lines have been paying tributes to late Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao whose funeral is expected to take place in his native village on Sunday morning. Thousands of well wishers have arrived in his native East Yadavalli village under Kamavarapukota Mandal, West Godavari District to have a glimpse of the departed soul. ♦

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**F**lamboyant senior congress leader and former minister Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao died of cardiac arrest at his residence in Eluru on Saturday morning. He was 67 and is survived by his wife and two children. His son Sridhar and daughter Anita were with him when the end came around 7-30 AM. He was staying in Eluru for quite some time to work for the victory of his daughter, a Sarpanch candidate in the fray at his native East Yadavalli village under Kamavarapukota Mandal, West Godavari District.

Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao began his career as a village sarpanch and rose to become a Minister, handling a range of portfolios in the Cabinets of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Founder NT Rama Rao and N Chandrababu Naidu. He was Agriculture Minister in NTR cabinet. Later Chandrababu Naidu took over; Vidyadhara Rao was made Panchayat Raj Minister for

about two years. Again he was moved to Agriculture portfolio till 1999 general elections. After the TDP retained its power, Vidyadhara Rao became Major Industries Minister. He served the Chintalapudi Assembly segment as a Legislator and Minister from the Telugu Desam Party for more than two decades i.e. from 1983 to 2004. He was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee during 1987-89.

Vidyadhara Rao, after graduating as a Mechanical Engineer, from Bangalore University joined public life early in life. He served as the Sarpanch of his village and quickly acquainted himself with the problems of the rural people. His ascendancy as Minister for Agriculture and Panchayat Raj was largely because of his expert knowledge in the related fields. In fact, Kotagiri's penchant for taking up challenges in the policy making has compelled the then







# ARE WE CAPABLE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT?

By Jaywant Naidu

Disaster Management comprises of Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness in pre-disaster phase, and Response, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in post-disaster phase. Natural calamities, of one description or the other, affect nations all over the world. Because of the large geographical size of the country, India often faces natural calamities like Floods, Cyclones and Drought occurring fairly frequently in different parts of the country. At times, the same area is subjected to floods and drought situation in successive seasons or years. While not all natural calamities can be predicted and prevented, a state of preparedness and ability to respond quickly to a natural calamity can considerably mitigate loss of life and property and the human suffering and restore normalcy at the earliest. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that a plan of action for dealing with contingencies that arise in the wake of natural calamities is formulated and periodically updated.

Types of Natural Calamities: Different natural calamities can be distinguished from each other in terms of their nature and extent of their impact. Calamities like Earthquakes, Hailstorms, Avalanches, Landslides, etc occur quite suddenly but they are restricted in their impact in terms of time and space. Similarly, though Floods and Cyclones occur with some element of warning, yet their occurrence is confined in duration. Drought, on the other hand, spans over a much longer time-frame and its adverse impact on the economic activities and life of an area is of a more lasting nature. The measures required to meet the threats posed by different calamities, therefore, differ considerably in terms of disaster preparedness and amelioration of the economic and social life of the affected people.

Major and Minor calamities: Natural calamities may be broadly grouped into major and minor types depending upon their potential to cause damage to the human life and property. While natural calamities like earth-quake, droughts, floods and cyclones could be regarded as major, hailstorms, avalanches, landslides, fire accidents, etc whose impact is localized and intensity of the damage is much less can be categorized as minor calamities. Minor calamities like hailstorms, avalanches, landslides and fires also occur without any appreciable degree of forewarning and cause damage to properties and lives. However, areas prone to such disasters also could be identified and certain precautionary measures taken in the context of potential threat requiring general awareness and an ability to relate to a predefined system of appropriate responses on the part of the local administration.

### National Disaster Management Authority :

The Government of India (GoI), in recognition of the importance of Disaster Management as a national priority, had set up a High-Powered Committee (HPC) in August 1999 and also a national committee after the Gujarat earthquake, for making recommendations on the preparation of Disaster Management plans and suggestion of effective mitigation mechanisms. The Tenth Five-Year Plan Document had for the first time, a detailed chapter on Disaster Management. Similarly, the Twelfth Finance Commission was also mandated to review the financial arrangements for Disaster Management. On 23rd December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster

Management Act, which envisaged the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India. NDMA as the apex body is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. Towards this, it has the following responsibilities:

Lay down policies on disaster management; Approve the National Plan; Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan; Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan; Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects; Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plan for disaster management; Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation; Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government; Take such other measures for the prevention of disasters, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with the threatening disaster situation or disaster as it may consider necessary; Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has made the statutory provisions for the constitution of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters. According to Section 45 of the Act, the Force has to function under the general superintendence, direction and control of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and under command and supervision of Director General, NDRF.

### All the states try to prepare themselves in gearing up for the following roles:

1. Set up of Community tents to Affected Area
2. Create temporary shelters, health camps, nutritional feeding for pregnant women and infants up to 6 years, temporary roofing for families & equipments support for strengthening the state control room & district control room.
3. Arrange Tarpaulin Sheets, Halogen tablets, Bleaching Powder & Equipments among people of the affected area
4. Prepare and distribute family food packets
5. Procure motor boats in the flood prone districts.
6. Construction of Ware Houses.
7. Establishment of Emergency Operation Centers.
8. Procurement of Life Jacket, Tents etc for flood prone districts.
9. Procurement and Maintenance of Communication Equipments.
10. Establishing Early Disaster Warning System.
11. Capacity Building of Stake holders for Disaster Reduction.

12. Awareness Generation through posters, pamphlets, seminars/ workshops / symposia, celebration of international day for disaster reduction.

### National Institute of Disaster Management:

The National Institute of Disaster Management constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 has been entrusted with the nodal national responsibility for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and policy advocacy in the field of disaster management. Section 42 (8) of the Act has made the Institute responsible for 'planning and promoting training and research in the area of disaster management, documentation and development of national level information base relating to disaster management policies, prevention mechanisms and mitigation measures'.

### Section 42 (9) of the Act has assigned the following specific functions to the Institute:

- a. Develop training modules, undertake research and documentation in disaster management and organize training programmes.
- b. Formulate and implement a comprehensive human resource development plan covering all aspects of disaster management.
- c. Provide assistance in national level policy formulation.
- d. Provide required assistance to the training and research institutes for development of training and research programmes for stakeholders including Government functionaries and undertake training of faculty members of the State level training institutes.
- e. Provide assistance to the State Governments and State training institutes in the formulation of State level policies, strategies, disaster management framework and any other assistance as may be required by the State Governments or State training institutes for capacity-building of stakeholders, Government including its functionaries, civil society members, corporate sector and people's elected representatives.
- f. Develop educational materials for disaster management including academic and professional courses.
- g. Promote awareness among stakeholders including college or school teachers and students, technical personnel and others associated with multi-hazard mitigation, preparedness and response measures.
- h. Undertake, organize and facilitate study courses, conferences, lectures, seminars within and outside the country to promote the aforesaid objects;
- i. Undertake and provide for publication of journals, research papers and books and establish and maintain libraries in furtherance of the aforesaid objects.
- j. Do all such other lawful things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects.
- k. Undertake any other function as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.

All said and done, the recent Uttarakhand disaster proved that we have still a long way to go to mitigate the Disasters. ♦

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# Jyestabhishekam Concludes in Sri Govindaraja Temple

On the concluding day of the Ongoing Three Day Annual Jyestabhishekam of Sri Govindaraja Swamy, the Temple Priests performed Snapana Tirumanjanam and Kavacha Prathista to the Processional deity of Lord Govindaraja Swamy and His consorts in Temple premises on Saturday morning. The gleaming golden armours covering the icons all year round are removed only for three days in a year during the 'Jyesthabhishekam' performed for the 'unarmoured' deities during the month

of June-July.

On the third day, after a 'snapana thirumanjanam' to the deities, the purified armours were re-adorned to the deities ending the annual ritual. On the other hand it is a general practice in the temples to put armours – kavachams to icons so that they shield the 'panchaloha' idols from wear and tear due to the periodical abhishekams performed to them using a range of pooja items like milk, honey, fruit jam, curd, sandalwood paste which tend to corrode the centuries



## SUDOKU 279

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

**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-278

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

Answer 278: Srikanth, RTC X Roads

## Laugh out loud

Santa-Banta ki khub pitai hui... Par kyu ?  
 Kyu ki..  
 Dono Bday party mein muft  
 Ka khana khaate hue pakde gaye, aur  
 Kehne lage: Hum ladki walo ki taraf se hain!!  
 "App dekh rhe hain ABP news"..  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Santa: Baaju k ghar se IODEX maang ke la.  
 Wife: Wo log nhi denge.  
 Santa: Haan! Bade kanjoos or kamine log hai  
 Chal Apni hi almaari se nikaal le!  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Interviewer- where does d sun go in the Night  
 Santa- it doesn't go anywer.

Intrvr- superb pls continue.  
 Santa- bcoz of darkness v r unable 2 c it!  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Waiter: Ur Bill Sir.  
 Santa: Take My Card.  
 Waiter: But Sir, This Is Ration Card.  
 Santa: To Phir Bahar Kya Majaak Me Likha hai..  
 All Cards are Accepted.  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 A boy said  
 I Love U to a girl  
 Bt Girl replied  
 Sorry i lv someone else  
 The boy in sad mood looked at d girl & said  
 "Batau tere baap ko?" ;-) :D  
 \*\*\*\*\*

2 terrorists having discussion in a bar.  
 The waiter asks them what the discussion was about?  
 Terrorist :- We are planning to kill 14 thousand people and a donkey..  
 Waiter :- Why a donkey?  
 Then one terrorist says to the other,  
 "See I told you nobody will care about the 14 thousand people".  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Bhikhari: Saab 1 rupaya de do.  
 Saheb: Kal aana.  
 Bhikhari: Saala is kal-kal ke chakkar mein is colony mein mere lakhon rupaye fase huye hain.  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 The Best Prank Call Ever:  
 "Hello KFC?"  
 " Yes, How can I help you sir?"  
 I want McDONALD'S number!!!

# ASTRO FOCUS

July 21 - 27, 2013

**Aries:** This week you will be benefited provided you take some bold decisions. Important decisions taken by you during this week might result in a major breakthrough in your career. Money position will also improve as pending payments get cleared. Your advice will change some one's life. You will beat the competition and will be selected for the job. You will learn valuable information if you keep your mind open to new cultures and religions.

**Taurus:** Your communication skill will be on all time high. With hard work and dedication you will achieve the desired results. Several different pals may request favors or have some issues that seem 'similar' for some reason. Looking and listening will get you closer to the love you seek than talking a great deal this week. Hard work may cause physical strain. Mental strain may also cause deterioration of health.

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

**Cancer:** At work you are likely to win appreciation and awards for your brilliant efforts. You should spend some time for recreational activities. This week is especially beneficial for artistic and educational pursuits. Unexpected gains are foreseen. Your practical approach to life would win you appreciation from people who would be watching you. Good news from overseas would bring in happiness for the entire family.

**Leo:** Your high energy level will bring enormous gains and enhance your reputation. Your creative mind will be at its best, so make the most of it. Your personality and sense of humour will attract a large crowd. Travel and trips connected with your profession are likely towards the weekend. Your partner would take you for a date in the end of the week.

**Virgo:** A venture capitalist may encourage you to start an independent venture. You are required to take decisions after deliberating all pros and cons carefully. Your meeting with some important persons will infuse you with joy and zest for life. Your abilities may take you to the peak of your professional growth. Your Love/relationship will be better if you devote your much time with your partner.

**Libra:** The work assigned to you during this week might be a test of your expertise and knowledge. Therefore you should put all your efforts into this task. Financially you will become more comfortable and have plenty of time for recreational and other activities. Opportunities for new romance would come up through social get-together.

**Scorpio:** This period would see you come up with great imaginative ideas, which would interest others. Growth opportunities will develop through interaction with influential people. You will even use your recreation time in planning and preparing your next move.

**Sagittarius:** Planets will continue to help those looking for a change or first time job seekers. Those in family business are required to change the technique and methods. Some good news will bring happiness and will boost your morale. Your interest in religious and spiritual activities will make you seek divine knowledge. Those in love will have a happy period ahead. Leisure, pleasure, romance and creativity are highlighted during this week.

**Capricorn:** You can recover the money that was held sufficiently long time. Your quest for knowledge will awaken your desire to read and learn. Your inherent talents will come into lime light. Be away from disputed areas. Your suggestion might give you better result. Your bank balance may increase due to recovery of old dues. Keep a straight thought when interacting with eminent people.

**Aquarius:** This week you should take advantage of your high spirits and meet new people and see new places. Your pioneering efforts are likely to earn you success and independence in your work. Journeys to the overseas or foreign transactions are likely to fetch returns along with pleasures. You might decide on a mutual course of action to save your relationship.

**Pisces:** Your success in your current venture will increase your stock in the business and financial circles. The outflow of money will still create hindrance in executing your new plans and projects. Taking opinion from people who have experience and knowledge will be important. This is a wonderful week to attend seminars and exhibition that interests you. This is the right moment for cultural trips and courses. Romantic vibrations from somebody in your neighborhood would come as a surprise and lift your spirits.



# Ancient Music needs Appreciation

Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, son of the legendary Rudra Veena Maestro Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar spoke exclusively to Deccan Post about the fading musical instrument 'Rudra Veena'.

## Can you tell us about your training days?

I started learning music on the Sitar under the tutelage of my mother Smt Pramila Dagar at the age of seven. After three years of initial training, I learnt the Surbahar and then the Rudra Veena from my father Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar. After my father passed away in the year 1990, I continued my 'Talim' from my uncle Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar.

## How was your Father as a Teacher?

My father had a lot of patience. He was very clear that I could take up music only if I had a good amount of interest in the same and would become a disciple. He would guide the important aspects of a Raga and leave us to work on them.

## What's about the shift in the holding posture of the Rudra Veena?

My father shifted from the traditional posture of holding a Rudra Veena to the Carnatic style posture. It was possible to get good 'Meend' by doing so.

## What is specific about your music?



I play the Dagar Vani style of Dhrupad on the Rudra Veena. I have incorporated the Dhrupad syllables (Te, Ta, Ra, Naa etc) in the playing of the Rudra Veena. This gives a unique and precise sense of timing in the cut-

ting of phrases while presenting the aalap, jor and the jhala.

## Do you get time to teach music?

I teach vocal and instrumental music to

students from our country and also abroad.

## How has this form of art been received in India?

My music has been recognized by the numerous awards given to me including the Sanskriti Award, instituted by the Sanskriti Foundation, New Delhi, 2006, The Yuvak Sadhak Award by the Sangeetendu Lal Mani Mishra Foundation, Bhopal, 2007 and the The Raza Award 2007 by the Raza Foundation; New Delhi.

## How have your performances been received by the audience?

I have performed in the The Tansen Samaroah, Gwalior, the Shankarlal Festival; New Delhi, The Dover lane Festival; Calcutta, Dhrupad Samaroahs in Mumbai and Delhi, The Sangeet Natak Academy Fest, Delhi, Saptak: Ahmedabad, Kalidas Samaroah; Ujjain in India, Zeitfluss Fest Austria, Festival Du Fes Morocco, Mozart Bicentenary Celebration Austria, and for SPIC-MACAY in India, U.S.A and Canada, Durbar Festival, London. This clearly indicates that the audience is very much interested in knowing and appreciating the most ancient form of music. ♦

- JAYWANT NAIDU

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An advertisement for Sagarasia. On the left, there is a red step ladder. Below it, two workers in blue uniforms and yellow hard hats are working with machinery. To the right, a large industrial warehouse is shown with rows of metal frames. The Sagarasia logo, a red square with a white stylized 'S' and 'A' and the word 'Sagarasia' below it, is in the top right. The slogan 'climb safely, smartly ...' is written in the center. The website 'www.sagarasia.com' is at the bottom right.

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## Neha Hinge singing 'Luv U Soniyo'

**F**ormer Miss India International Neha Hinge, who is making her Bollywood debut with "Luv U Soniyo", says filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, who had seen her at a beauty contest, recommended her name for the film. She also admits winning a beauty peagant has helped her in grabbing the film.

"If you have won a peagant, it becomes easier because your face is noticed, you get a platform where people recognise you. So there is a lot of visibility you get," Neha said here in an interview. "So definitely Miss India (winning) helped me a lot as well. Somewhere down the line it has helped me grab this movie," she added. Neha won Miss India International crown in 2010.



## Deliberate Drama?

**N**obody in India needs introduction to this Drama queen who watches Television

Drama serials like Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi so on and so forth. Ekta Kapoor famously known as Indian drama queen always had a problem with her wardrobe. Most of the times her wardrobe malfunctions especially in the parties where the media is ready to capture the slipping moments.

In the past many celebrities suffered from wardrobe malfunction but it is being gossiped in the movie and television circles that Ekta got habituated to these wardrobe malfunctioning and she is not even giving a damn care which is confusing the viewers that whether it's deliberate or dramatic.

-DP Desk



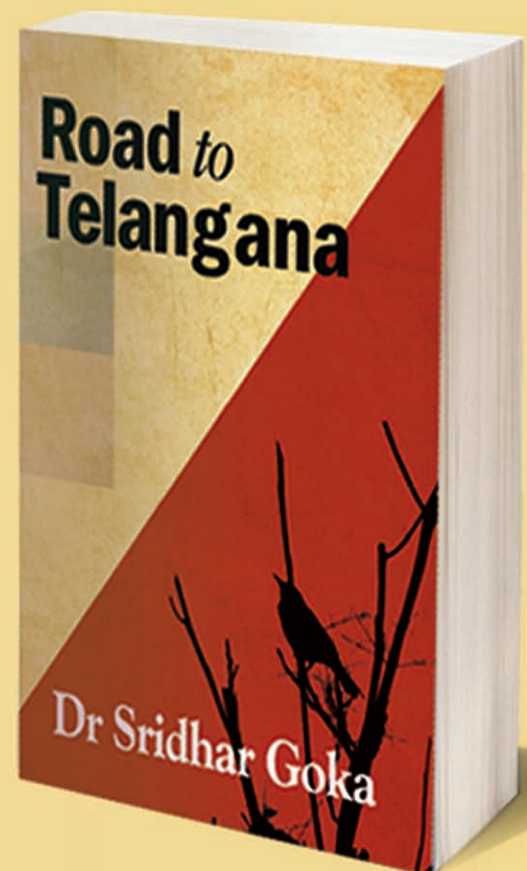
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# Market scales 20,000 levels

By V Sundar Raja

Stock market performance indicator Sensex has further continued the uptrend and has hit the major psychological level of 20,000. Market has gained nearly by 1,000 points in the last few days, and is now close to the two month high. Market has witnessed a surprise rally, even as there are reports of concerns about economic slowdown.

Market has witnessed a steady rally, even after few minor jerks, and managed to maintain a positive sentiment, on back of strong American Markets. But however, only select stocks and select sectors participated in the rally, while many sectors are still in a weakening trend. The first quarterly corporate results season have just started and the beginning has been good. Software segment stocks trend has turned positive trend, after the better than expected quarterly financial results from software giants Infosys and TCS. The strength of the American Dollar is expected to have a positive impact on the earnings of the software stocks and there is an increase of activity and interest in the mid-cap software stocks.

The quarterly results from the banking majors like HDFC Bank, and IndusInd Bank are also encouraging, but the overall sentiment in the banking stocks are still depressed. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the bank rates, as a monetary tightening measure to



control the depreciation of the Rupee. This is expected to have short-term pressure on the banking stocks, but however there are reports that the tightening policies could be reversed as soon as the pressure is over on the Rupee.

Major company Reliance Industries is expected to announce its quarterly results this month, which is expected to have an impact

on the market. Stock Market and especially banking stocks are keenly awaiting the next RBI meet on July 31st, and any major announcement on the banking lending interest rates would have an impact on the banking sector stocks.

Pharma and FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) stocks continued their

ascending trend, as there are expectations of strong performance. There are expectations that the GDP (Economic Growth), would revive in the next few quarters from current low levels.

Crude Oil is seen continuously on the ascending trend and is now at record highs of 6,400 levels in the commodity market. Crude Oil has been on the uptrend from 4,700 levels in the last few weeks, which is also a major concern now.

Precious commodities like Gold and silver are seen in a stabilizing trend in the last few weeks, in the MCX commodity markets. Gold is seen taking support at 25,000, while Silver is seen steady at 40,000, indicating signs of a possible recovery from current levels.

Technically, on the charts, Sensex is now placed just above the major psychological barrier of 20,000 where a consolidation is possible, in the short-term. It has to sustain above this key level to indicate a further uptrend. But in-case of any failure to sustain, and if declines below this key level, then it indicates a short-term weakness, for the short-term investors to be cautious. ♦

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

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# Tributes to our departed leader



**Kotagiri Vidyadhara Rao**  
(28 - April - 1946 to 20 - July - 2013)



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