

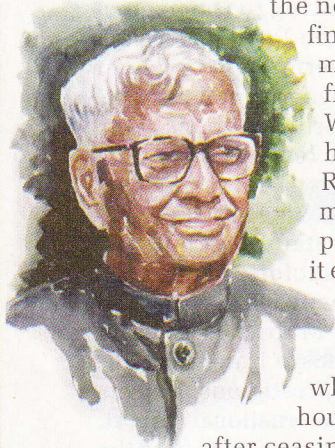
Telugus prestigious posts of Governor of Reserve Bank, chief executive of Maruti Suzuki...

R Seshasayee and V Sumantran, with their brilliant record, can help in the holistic development of the transport sector. If only the state takes the initiative, it can project these at the national level; but the insular nature of administration in the state keeps policy makers at Delhi away from the state. The adversarial stand taken by Jayalalithaa has resulted in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reluctant to visit the state. Not just the prime minister; but also most Central ministers and senior bureaucrats have not been visiting Tamil Nadu as access to policy makers here is so difficult. Unlike Narendra Modi, Sheila Dixit or Nitish Kumar, chief ministers of Tamil Nadu have been reluctant to participate in major conferences organised by industry associations and by the Union government. This needs change. If the chief minister cannot find time to lend her presence, she can create a strong think tank of bureaucrats and intellectuals from outside government to act on her behalf.

When the President was rendered homeless...

UNVEILING a statue of former President R Venkataraman (RV) in Chennai, Chairman of the Ramco Group of Companies, P R Ramasubrahmaneya Rajha narrated this incident:

"It was 1967 the day after the new government of C N Annadurai assumed charge. I received a call from RV the next morning enquiring if I could find a house for him in 24 hours. I was myself occupying the house of my friend. I offered to vacate it for him. Within 24 hours I moved out and handed the premises to RV. Though RV was entitled to vacate the government house in three months, he was particular that he shouldn't occupy it even for a day after he ceased to be a minister."



One cannot but contrast this to the large number of politicians who manage to remain in the palatial houses allotted to them in Delhi years after ceasing to be a MP and their ingenious ways of converting these to party offices or memorials to continue to remain there.

After his term was over as President, RV returned to Chennai. He took active interest in the city's cultural activities. One remembers his heading the Kalakshetra with distinction. Soon after the DMK came to power in 1996, DMK supremo M Karunanidhi was critical of RV occupying a government building. As past President, RV was entitled to it. He opted to shift to Delhi and spent the remainder of his life in the capital.

One more instance of the state leaders' apathy in respecting its brilliant citizens and utilising their expertise.

Maximising the micro pricing ...

ACCORDING to Khaja Muzaffarullah, National Sales Head, Micromax sells about 3 million handsets a month - a third of these smart phones. He expects sales to reach around Rs 11,000 crore next year.

With the changing tastes of the consumer, with increasing apps and decreasing differentiation, the huge price advantage of Micromax will help maintain its spectacular growth in sales, said Muzaffarullah.



Khaja Muzaffarullah



Micromax Informatics recently opened its office in Chennai. The leading smart phone manufacturer estimates to garner a revenue of over Rs 6000 crore this year. Madhu Radhakrishnan, heading the Chennai office, is enthusiastic about revenue growing over 40 per cent in the next financial year. The launch of the office was attended by a cross section of dealers including Poorvika and Univercell.

Discoms deserve better...

PRASAD MENON was in Chennai recently to participate in the CII annual regional meeting. Menon headed with distinction Tata Chemicals and Tata Power companies. He pointed to the first ultra mega power project in the country of Tatas at Mundra, Gujarat, fully operational. There is understandable relief over the price increase granted to compensate for the higher price of coal.



Prasad Menon

However, of the nine UMPPs contemplated, only one is in operation. Reliance Power, which won three bids, is showing progress only at one at Sasan. It is a pity that this major initiative of the Manmohan Singh government has made such poor progress.

Menon pointed to the success of the distribution company of the Tatas achieving remarkable progress in its Delhi operations: "T&D losses which used to exceed 50 per cent (largely due to theft and unmetered distribution) have been reduced to less than 10 per cent," pointed out Menon.

How sad Kejriwal & Co should be blind to this remarkable change and hound the discoms! ■