

PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

Issue No 94 – Jan 2015
Published by Prime Point Foundation

Cover Story of the Month



Obama and Modi

In This Issue:

- P3** Cover Story –
The Hug of
Diplomacy
- P6** Freedom of
Expression
- P9** Dr Abdul
Kalam's
Quotes
- P10** Neutrinos
- P12** Living in a
Golden Cage
- P13** PRince
Cartoon
- P14** Archives –
January 2009

Contact

www.corpezine.com

editor@corpezine.com



From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief



The Editorial Team is pleased to release the 94th (January 2015) edition of your ezine PreSense. PreSense pays respects and homage to the cartoon legend, R K Laxman, who passed away on 26th January, 2015.

The recent visit of US President Obama to India as the chief guest at the Republic Day Celebrations is significant in many ways. We have analysed the impact of his visit in our cover story.

In the recent days, there have been heated debates about the freedom of expression.

We have included a perspective about whether anyone in the world can claim the freedom of expression as absolute. We have also examined the legal implications.

For the first time in India, the Government will be starting a Neutrino project in a hilly area of Tamil Nadu. We have presented the significance of such research projects.

We hope you will continue to enjoy this edition too. Please share your feedback with us for further improvement.

K. Srinivasan

PreSense Pays Homage to R K Laxman, the Creator of Cartoon Character 'The Common Man'

Shri R K Laxman, the legendary cartoonist passed away on 26th January, 2015 at the age of 94 years. He was a source of inspiration to many Indian journalists and cartoonists. His creation of the cartoon character, 'The Common Man' became a popular people's icon.



Symbiosis, Pune has installed a statue of 'The Common Man' in their premises. Inspired by this cartoon character, Triambak Sharma, our Cartoon Editor created our own cartoon character 'PRince' for the ezine PreSense.



On behalf of the readers and the editorial team of PreSense, we pay our homage to Shri R K Laxman. May his soul rest in peace. This issue is dedicated to R K Laxman.

☺ Editorial Team ☺



Cover Story

The Hug of Diplomacy

The US President Barrack Obama's visit to India as the Chief Guest for the 66th Republic Day celebrations is unique in several ways. This is the first time a US President has accepted India's invitation to be the chief guest for the Republic Day function. It is also the first time that any sitting US President has visited India twice during his tenure.

Chemistry Between Obama and Modi



Breaking the protocol, the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi received the President at the airport with a warm 'hug'. Although Modi had met Obama just four months earlier, the chemistry between them brought them together like childhood friends. They hugged again during the joint press conference.

President Obama spent three days in India. During his stay, there were several meetings between the officials and dignitaries of the two countries, besides personal conversations between Modi and Obama. Both of them shared their personal views while walking on the lawns. During the private tea meeting, which was telecast live but muted on all the TV channels, they seemed to have discussed many issues. When asked by a journalist about what they had spoken, Modi replied, "*Pardein mein rehne do* [Let it remain behind a curtain]."

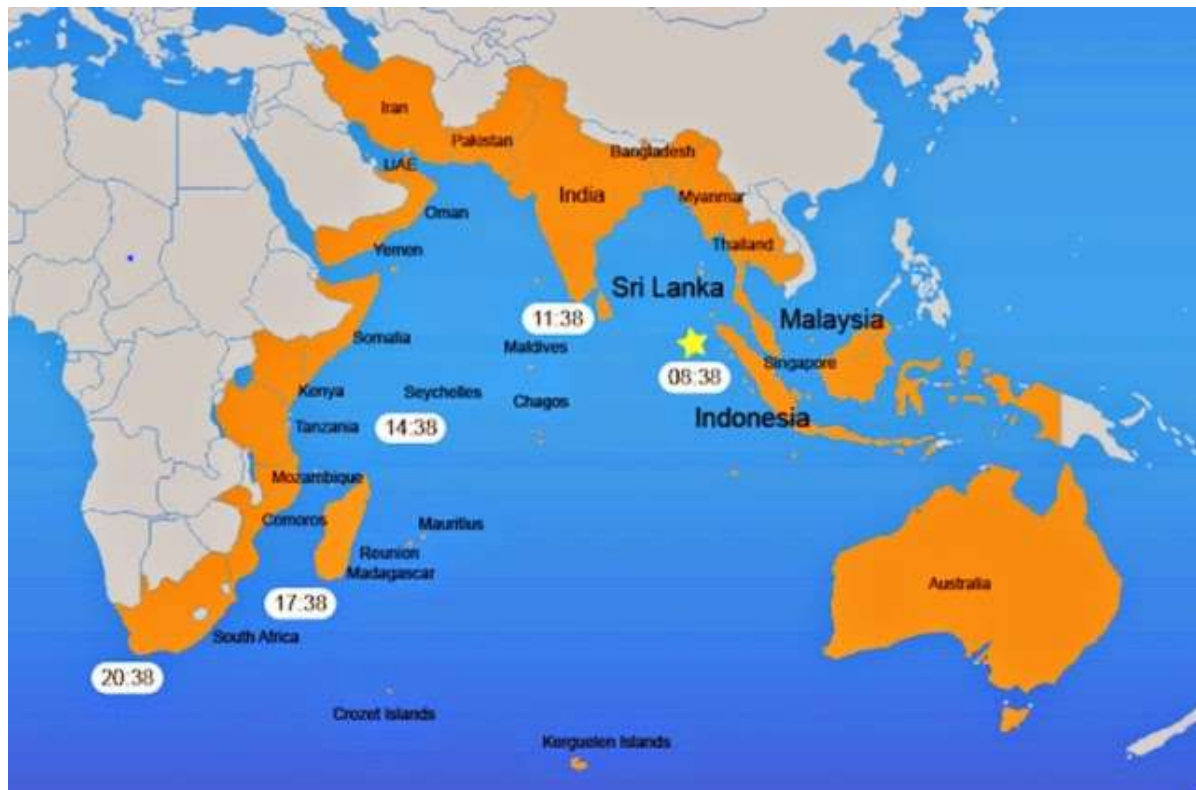
Both of them came up in life from humble beginnings. They were, therefore, able to appreciate each other well. Obama said that he was the grandson of a cook, just as Modi hailed from the *chaiwala* family. Even during the public meetings, Obama addressed the Prime Minister as 'Modi' and Modi addressed him as 'Barack'. They behaved as if they were



long-time school friends. Obama openly complimented the dress sense of the Indian Prime Minister, Modi and expressed his desire to wear the 'Modi Kurta'.

Generally, a US President does not stay in open air for more than 20 minutes for security reasons. Obama watched the entire proceedings of the Republic Day celebrations for nearly two hours, sitting in the open air. India could convince USA that she was capable of providing foolproof security to the US President.

Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean Region



Experts in international diplomacy saw Obama's visit as a booster for the Indian economy. During the joint press conference, Obama and Modi jointly declared the 'US-India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean Region'. This is an initiative of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when he visited USA in September 2014. The idea was to bring together nearly 59 countries bordering the Indian Ocean for strategic partnership and development. These countries have a population of more than 2 billion, with an aggregate 10 trillion dollar economy. Within 10 years, the economy can grow up to 20 trillion dollars. This could position India as one of the major players in the world and a leader in this region. This had caused concern for China, which would have otherwise overtaken in the future. Experts say that this was the main purpose of Obama's visit to India. This may lead to Consortium of solar energy nations, implementation of Trans-Asian Highway and Railway projects, etc.

Other Major Breakthroughs

The nuclear deal signed by India in 2008 was pending for want of finalisation in some of its clauses. Obama and Modi, through personal discussions, were able to sort out the



bottlenecks and finalise the deal. Soon, all the pending nuclear power projects are likely to be initiated. This may add more than 5000 MW of clean energy to Indian grid.

India's demand for permanent membership in the UN Security Council has been pending for many years. Obama has openly declared that he would support India to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Although the US and Indian officials discussed many issues during the three days' presidential visit, only limited information about them was released. While experts are highly optimistic about the future positioning of India, critics point out that India is moving away from her traditional friends like Russia and is also migrating from socialism to capitalism.

Though Obama visit ended up with lot of discussions impacting the economy of the world, including India, the Indian media focussed more on issues such as Obama's chewing gum, Modi's wardrobe with customised design, Kiran Bedi in the front row at the Republic Day function, and the Vice President slipping up on saluting during the flag hoisting, as critical topics for discussion and debate.

By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief

Exclusive workshop on 'Making of EMagazine'



Presently, the importance of Ezine (Emagazine) as an effective communication tool is being realised by corporates and NGOs. On 29th January 2015, NTPC, the biggest power company of India organised a workshop on 'EMagazines' at their Chennai Office. The Editorial Team of the ezine *PreSense* was requested by NTPC to share the success story. K. Srinivasan (Editor in Chief) and T N Ashok (Editorial Advisor) shared the experiences of 'Making of Ezine'. Senior officials from Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad, including two General Managers participated actively. To our knowledge, this is the first time that any organisation has conducted a workshop on 'EMagazines'.

A brief note on the workshop and the power point presentation on 'Making of Ezine' are shared in the public domain for the benefit of all. Please see the link.

<http://www.prpoint.in/2015/01/making-of-emagazine-ezine-important-tips.html>



Controversy

Is Freedom of Expression Absolute?

Case Study 1: Charlie Hebdo

On 7th January 2015, the whole world was shaken by the shocking news of the massacre of 17 journalists and cartoonists of Charlie Hebdo, as well as some innocent people, by a group



of Islamic terrorists in Paris. The reason was that in 2011, the magazine had carried some objectionable cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed. It is reported that the magazine had published similar cartoons of icons of other religions, as well.

More than three million people including 40 world leaders participated in a march across France to protest against the killings. Journalists and cartoonists debated about "freedom of expression". There were also counter protest marches in several parts of the world against the magazine, Charlie Hebdo for hurting the sentiments of a religious community.

Case Study 2: A Book in South India

Around the same time in South India, another controversy cropped up. Perumal Murugan, a Tamil writer had published a book, '*Mathorubaagan*' in 2010. In the novel, the author wrote about the childless married women of a particular community in a particular town in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India. He narrated how they used to have clandestine relationships with other men during the temple festival day and bear children thereafter. (Although the author had named the community and the town in his book, the same is withheld in this article.)

When the English translation of the book was released in 2014, the particular community raised protests and demanded the withdrawal of the book from the market. Writers and activists ganged up in defence of the author, claiming 'freedom of

expression'. The entire town showed their solidarity against the author, by pulling down their shutters for a day in January 2015. Although the author was defended in the social media as well as in seminars held in the cities, none of the activists had the courage to defend the author in that particular town.



The Government formed a peace committee to address the crisis. The author later apologised for the contents and admitted that he did not possess any documentary evidence to support his claim. All his books were withdrawn from the market. In spite of these steps to resolve the situation, the topic was debated on various TV channels and other media, in their attempt to defend their freedom of expression.

How Far Does One's Liberty Extend?

These two incidents have brought the issue of the freedom of expression to the forefront. Can there be an absolute freedom of expression for anyone in the world? There is a saying in English, "Your liberty to swing your fist ends just where my nose begins".

Does the media, the writers or anyone have the right to absolute freedom of expression because they express their views in public domain? Is there or should there be a restriction?

Double Standards of the Media

Very unfortunately, in India, the media exhibit double standards on such sensitive issues. One of the leading newspapers published 'I am Charlie' posters, with a photograph of marchers in Paris protesting against the killing. After printing nearly 50 percent of the newspapers, the editorial board realised that such photos might hurt the sentiments of a section of a community in India. The photograph was withdrawn from the remaining issues of the newspaper. An apology was also published to state "Some copies of XXXX (name of the newspaper withheld) dated January 18, 2015, carried an image of people holding copies of the French magazine, Charlie Hebdo, featuring the cover page with the image, which might have offended a section of our readers. The image was removed mid-way through the print-run. XXXX (name of the paper) regrets and apologises for the inadvertent and accidental use of the image - Editor".

Four days prior to this incident, the same newspaper had concluded their editorial stating, "The rights under the Constitution are designed to protect the freedom of expression of writers like Perumal Murugan who may seek to question uncomfortable truths from the past. It is a pity that a range of forces conspired to silence him".

A few years ago, there was a protest in the media against Salman Rushdie, who wrote some portions in his book that hurt religious sentiments. The same media defended M. F. Hussain, the artist who portrayed a Hindu goddess in what many people regarded as distasteful and disrespectful. They justified it as freedom of expression in art.

A few years ago, there was a protest in the media against Salman Rushdie, who wrote some portions in his book that hurt religious sentiments. The same media defended M. F. Hussain, the artist who portrayed a Hindu goddess in what many people regarded as distasteful and disrespectful. They justified it as freedom of expression in art.

'Faith' is always a 'Faith'

Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, etc. are called 'faiths'. Billions of people worship their respective gods or their founders. Such allegiance and belief is built and followed only on faith and it is often difficult to rationalise them scientifically. Any writing, picture or speech which portrays these faiths in poor light is likely to hurt the religious sentiments of these billions of followers. In this scenario, nobody can claim any absolute liberty that risks



hurting the feelings of a large number of people. Protesting and defending such actions selectively is also unfair and not in good taste.

The same can be said of the cartoons published by Charlie Hebdo. The Islamic people have the right to decry such cartoons and take suitable legal actions against these publications. Unfortunately, the killing of the cartoonists by the terrorists has diverted the focus from the issue. Charlie Hebdo received the sympathy and support they did not deserve. They cannot claim the publishing of such provocative cartoons as their freedom of expression.

The Indian Constitution and IPC

The media too should address these issues objectively and fairly. They should not defend or protest selectively. The freedom of any one person should not infringe upon the rights of the society in the name of creativity

Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution provides freedom of speech and expression to all citizens of India. Article 19(2) imposes reasonable restrictions on the same, on grounds of security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency and morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offence, and sovereignty and integrity of India.

Sections 153A, 153B, and 295-298 of the Indian Penal Code contain the restrictions on the freedom of expression. It also includes the punishment for violation.

Freedom of Expression and Misuse of this Right

We often forget the fine line between freedom and misuse of a right. While freedom of speech gives a person the right to express his opinion, he should not forget his responsibility to respect religious sentiments. The media too should address these issues objectively and fairly. They should not defend or protest selectively. The freedom of any one person should not infringe upon the rights of the society in the name of creativity.

By K. Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief

Popular Cartoons of R K Laxman



Jawaharlal Nehru during Indo-China War in 1962



Before and after elections of 1970



Hindi agitation in Tamil Nadu in 1960s



Inspiring Quote from Dr Abdul Kalam

Mobile Election Voting System on Cloud



The Election Commission should develop a Mobile Election Voting system on Cloud and have an access to secured mobile phone Application on Android, Windows and IOS platform. Individual voters who can register with their voter ID along with their Aadhar ID or NPR ID, should be allowed to a particular constituency to vote through their mobile. The entire Mobile Election Vote APP can be brought under the PKI Infrastructure with secured digital signature and the voter is mapped into his constituency and the candidates and their symbols are made available for voting. Each election booth should have access to the Election Voting System on Cloud so that when a voter registers with the voter

ID, he or she can be verified immediately by his Aadhar ID/NPR ID/Voter ID whether that person has already exercised his franchise or not through the mobile.

Since the government is thinking of free Wi-Fi in 2,500 cities, and the services are scheduled for implementation in 2015-16. This Mobile App-based voting can be tried in these 2500 cities in a pilot phase. Certainly, the 30% of the voters who are not willing to visit the booths to vote, can be attracted to vote through this mobile app. This Mobile Election Vote on Cloud will attract the youth and the busy people to vote from their home or on the move, without disturbing their daily schedule.

There are 933 million mobile phone subscriptions in the nation, and out of this, 25% are users of smart phones with data connectivity. We can harness this outreach to enable people to access information about their candidate using mobile devices. These apps should help them compare two candidates, seek critical data and even raise questions to the candidates, which can be linked to publicly available social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook.

I was delighted to know that now even the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) will soon be able to cast their vote from abroad, without having the trouble to fly back to their hometown during elections. The Supreme Court has approved e-ballot voting for Indian passport holders staying abroad.

In e-ballot voting, a blank postal ballot paper is emailed to the voter, who has to then fill it and mail it by post to their constituency. Allowing NRIs to vote abroad is likely to make an impact in states like Kerala, which has 40 lakh people living abroad, and elections are scheduled for next year for a new government. There is very little risk of manipulation, rigging or violation of secrecy in this system, the Commission has reportedly said. It has also suggested that NRIs should be allowed to vote. Technology has empowered a large number of voters across the globe to cast their votes.

I hope that this Technology will soon be easily accessible to every citizen of the nation. The elderly people need not travel long distances to cast their votes.

Source: www.abdulkalam.com



Technology Corner

Unravelling the Mystique of Neutrinos

In the first week of January 2015, the Government of India announced the setting up of a Rs.1500 crore India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Bodi (Theni District of Tamil Nadu). After Canada, Japan and Italy, India will be the fourth country in the world to possess a neutrino detector of this size. This project would put India back on the world map of underground science, a position that was held during the second half of the 20th century when Indian scientists had the privilege of working at the world's deepest underground lab at Kolar Gold Mines. Immediately after the announcement, some of the activist NGOs and some political leaders have started protesting against this project. In order to obtain clarity about the proposed project, Susan Koshy, Editor, *PreSense* discussed with Dr R Jagannathan, Former Vice Chancellor of Middle East University, UAE to understand this concept better. Excerpts from the interview.



Graphics Courtesy: The Hindu

What is neutrino?

A neutrino is an elementary particle with no electric charge and very little mass. But they have a definite mass which is very close to zero.

Neutrinos are produced every second in trillions and trillions of times a trillion in number by the Sun. A similarly large quantity is produced by the other stars in the galaxies. Neutrinos were also produced during the Big Bang that occurred at the creation of the Universe.

These neutrinos zip right through our bodies and our Earth every second of the day and night. Fortunately, they do no harm and leave no trace because neutrinos hardly ever interact with other particles. They are safe particles (unlike electrons/protons/radioactive materials).

What are the Scientific Reasons for Investigating Neutrinos?

At the time our Universe was born (the Big Bang), two types of materials were created in equal quantities – “matter” and “antimatter”. For some unknown reason, something happened in nature so that our earth, our solar system, our galaxy and our whole universe were made up of “matter” alone, pushing the “antimatter” into a not-easily-detectable state. The estimation of the mass of the neutrinos can provide clues about why this extraordinary phenomenon happened.



Neutrinos change their properties of “flavour” and “mass” as they travel. This phenomenon is known as neutrino oscillations. Understanding this property is critical for the in-depth understanding of the quantum mechanics behind the energy formulations of the entire universe at this level.

Knowing about and understanding the neutrinos can help in knowing more about the creation and sustenance of our universe.

Can you share the details of other Neutrino Laboratories in the world?

Very important developments have occurred recently in the fields of neutrino physics and neutrino astronomy. The knowledge about oscillations of neutrinos and the inferred discovery that neutrinos have mass, are likely to have far-reaching consequences. The discovery came from the study of solar- and cosmic ray-produced neutrinos. The pioneering solar neutrino experiments of Davis and collaborators in USA, the gigantic Super-Kamiokande detector in Japan, the heavy-water detector at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory in Canada, and a few other laboratories, have contributed in a very fundamental way to our knowledge of neutrino properties and interactions. The Canadian experiment in particular, has given direct experimental proof of the 80-year-old hypothesis that the sun and the stars are powered by thermonuclear fusion reactions.

Impelled by these discoveries and their implications on the future of particle physics, plans have been made world-wide, for new neutrino detectors, neutrino factories (laboratories to produce and study neutrinos) and baseline neutrino experiments. Some of the laboratories located worldwide are in the Mediterranean Sea in France, the Antarctica, China, Italy, New Mexico, USA and Canada.

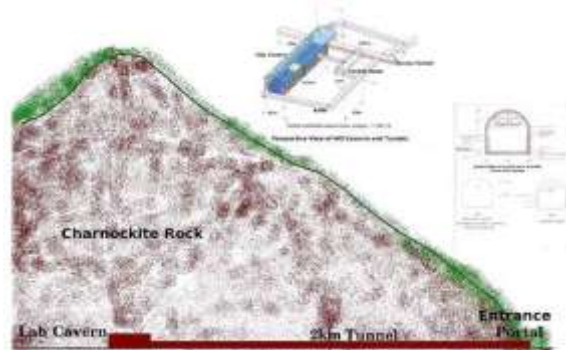


Diagram of the Bodi (Theni Dt.) Observatory

India is a pioneer in neutrino experiments. In fact, cosmic ray-produced neutrinos were first detected in the deep mines of the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) in 1965. After the closure of KGF, the Government of India asked its scientists and engineers to find an alternative site. The expert team surveyed the whole of India for a suitable alternative place. The unique, fully packed, rocky structure of the site at Bodi in the Southern state of Tamil Nadu, India, makes it a scientifically suitable site.

Can you give some details about the proposed Indian laboratory?

The proposed lab will be located at a depth of about 1.3 km below the peak of a hill. As is obvious from the accompanying diagram of the observatory, the hill will not be blasted. As neutrino is harmless and not radioactive, there is no danger to any form of life.

The Indian scientific community, along with other international scientists, will play a historical role by investigating the neutrinos. This research would be of immense academic benefit to the universities, colleges, researchers and students in and around Theni in Tamilnadu, and in India. This opportunity could promote employment generation in the primary, secondary and tertiary domains, directly benefitting the locals of Theni District. The research work would be a pollution-free project. The neutrino observatory will be a boon to the society and is looked forward to by the Indian scientists.



Between You and Me

Living in a Golden Cage

(This section is intended for our readers to share their views frankly. Ms R (name suppressed at her request) shares her views on the topic. Ms R lives in USA with her husband, a professional, and their cute little baby.)

Amongst various types of visas that USA issues, the H4 category (issued to the dependants of H1B workers) is the most restrictive one. You may not be in need of money, you may not have to support your family financially, you may have an extremely understanding husband but you lose your identity. Often highly educated and skilled, this category of visitors finds themselves in the uncomfortable position of social and financial dependence on their husbands, while struggling to adjust to a new lifestyle in a new country. In other words, H4 dependents live in an identity crisis.

Even as a legal immigrant, you end up losing your identity, thereby losing your self-respect in the so-called American society. When you see a woman from India, say in a mall in USA, the first question asked is "Do you work here?" I really do not understand how a person's efficiency/capability is estimated, based on whether he/she is employed or not. On the other hand, in India, it is not dependent on whether you work or not!

There is a high level of depression in this community of women/men because the whole day, you do nothing because you are not allowed to. Volunteering in social activities could give a break but not the financial incentive. Most of the times, women belonging to this category of immigrants have no break from the kitchen, the kids and the husband. Expectations are also particularly high because "you sit at home and have lots of time".

Many of us always prefer going back home (India) where we can be independent. It is just a misconception that if you live in USA, you earn well and the women here are free to do anything they want. In other words, we have the apparent freedom but we are still figuring out where it is. Most of us are young, well educated, English-speaking, full of innovative ideas and ambitious but they are denied right to work. I was surprised to hear from a bank officer that an H4 dependant cannot have a bank account on his/her own. The only possible thing is that you can be added as a secondary holder to your husband's account!!

A person on L1 Visa comes to USA and performs similar job duties as an H1B worker. But the dependents of L1 visa holders are immediately eligible for a work permit (EAD), unlike the H4 visa holders, who are dependents of H1B workers. Nobody knows why such discrimination exists. Although there is an immigration reform in process, that would be applicable only for "certain" H4 spouses, to authorise them to work. Nobody can give us back our lost time, aspirations and dreams.

The only solution to this is to take a call before you move to USA. Think twice when you have to take big decisions, because everyone's priority differs. Once you are here in USA, it would be too late because no one compels anyone to come to USA for work or to accompany their family in the move.





PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



www.cartoonwatchindia.com

cartoonwatch@gmail.com

CARTOONIST
R.K. LAXMAN
NO MORE

This is our
Destiny Sir..
Creator Goes..
Character
Lives...



From the Archives of E-zine PreSense - January 2009

Health and Physical Fitness Tips

Don't Smoke - One of the main reasons people decide not to give up smoking, and sadly, the reason why some people take it up is the effect smoking supposedly has on weight gain or loss. It is true that smoking has been associated with an increase in metabolism. It is a drug!! However it is a dangerous, addictive drug and surely the tiny effect it has on your metabolism is outweighed by the huge risk of dying from lung cancer.

Drink More Water - You can live three weeks without food, However you can only live without fluid for three days. One can infer that water is fairly important! Your body is anywhere between 60 and 70 percent fluid. The fluid in your body is responsible for helping to keep every system of your body in good working order, including all of your metabolic processes. De-hydrate and everything slows down. The fluid in your body will also ensure that you can move well and be active. If you start to dehydrate, your body's ability to do basic activities will slow down and your ability to exercise effectively or even enjoy exercise will be reduced. You will feel tired, lethargic and will probably get a headache.

Eat A Variety Of Foods - You need a variety of foods that deliver that mix of nutrients and minerals for protection from the majority of illnesses such as heart disease and cancer. Aim to eat different coloured fruits and vegetables. Try to eat a different food each month. Eat an apple a day as the pectin in it cleanses the body's digestive system by removing toxins and therefore preventing degenerative health problems such as cancer.

Relax For 20 Minutes a Day - Relaxing for at least 20 minutes a day will go a long way to reduce blood pressure and your reactions to stress. Sit or lie somewhere comfortable, Breathe slowly in and out of the nostrils, breathing deeply into your abdomen. Say HAM as you inhale and SA as you exhale. These suggestions are charged with positive energy and will help you control your emotions. Try once a day for fantastic results.

Floss Every Day - Flossing your teeth every day is the best way to prevent gum disease and protect your heart. Gum disease, if left untreated, can lead to inflammatory reactions in the body that can trigger heart disease and stroke.

Drink More Tea - Drink more tea than coffee to help protect your body from the damaging effects of free radicals. Tea is a rich source of antioxidants that play a big role in protecting against some forms of cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Get Active - Aerobic activity not only burns calories but also increases your metabolism and can keep it elevated for several hours after a workout. You do not need to spend hours each day on the treadmill or bike to reap the benefits. Exercising aerobically for as little as 20 minutes, three to five days a week will make a big difference. Additional movement throughout the day is also essential. Take the stairs instead of the lift, get rid of the remote and move at every opportunity you can.

Get More Sleep - Lack of sleep changes your hormone levels and the capacity to metabolise carbohydrates. So, less sleep = slower metabolism. Studies have shown that deep sleep helps cell repair and cell growth, which will in turn, speed up the metabolism and burn calories. So, aim to get at least eight hours sleep a night.

Eat More Protein - Protein stimulates the major brain chemical dopamine which keeps us alert. Try chicken or tuna salads for lunch. Go for complex carbohydrates rather than white flour and sugar, as they will provide a sustained energy source as opposed to a quick hit. Another reason to reduce simple carbohydrates from the diet is that they have an adverse effect on the skin. The more sugar in the body, the more you force a chemical reaction causing sugars to attach to proteins, and this is very detrimental to your skin.

Source: <http://www.healthybiz2000.com/>



Presenters of *PreSense*

Editorial Team



K. Srinivasan
Editor in Chief



Susan Koshy
Editor



V. Rajendran



Triambak Sharma

Editorial Advisors



V. Ponraj



T N Ashok



Sukruti A Vadula



Awards

Published by
Prime Point Foundation

Feedback and sponsorship
editor@corpezine.com

Past issues may be downloaded from
www.prpoint.com
www.primepointfoundation.org
www.corpezine.com

Listen to India's first pod-magazine
www.poduniversal.com
One stop shop for podcasts on all subjects

To subscribe to this ezine.
www.prpoint.com/PR-e-Sense

