

PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

Issue No 83 – Feb 2014
Published by Prime Point Foundation

Man of the Month



You

In this Issue:

- P2** Thirukkural
- P3** Cover Story –
Voting is Our
Duty
- P5** Interesting facts
- P8** Electoral Systems
- P9** Sansad Ratna
Awards 2014
- P12** Cartoon
- P13** Announcements

Contact

www.corpezine.com

editor@corpezine.com



From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief

We are happy to present the 83rd edition of your ezine, PreSense with an exclusive focus on the Parliament and the General Elections. Now that the 15th Lok Sabha has completed its term, the nation is preparing to elect the 16th Lok Sabha.



The 15th Lok Sabha has witnessed deteriorating values and traditions, including violence. Some MPs shamed the nation with their despicable acts. A few

other MPs made us proud by their discharging their constitutional responsibilities. This edition analyses the performance of a few top performing MPs.

From this edition, Ms Susan Koshy, a communication expert will take over as Editor of your ezine.

K. Srinivasan

Thirukkural for This Month

The Editorial Team has decided to publish one Thirukkural, relevant for the month, from this edition onwards. Thirukkural is a collection of 1330 couplets in Tamil made into 133 chapters. These couplets, authored by Saint Thiruvalluvar, date back to the first century CE. This book is translated into many world languages. Many valuable management and political strategies are discussed in these couplets.

This edition of ezine PreSense deals with the Parliament and the General Elections. This Thirukkural suggests the criteria for the selection of a person for any political assignments.

**513 அன்புஅறிவு தேற்றம் அவாஇன்மை இந்நான்கும்
நன்குடையான் கடடே தெளிவு.**

This is 513th couplet. In this couplet, Thiruvalluvar suggested how a king should select a person for any political work. In the modern democracy, the voters are the kings as they elect MPs and MLAs and other representatives.

Thiruvalluvar recommended four qualities in the persons to be selected for a political assignment. They are 1) love for the people, 2) knowledge of the work 3) clarity in mind to take right decisions and 4) without greed. He said that only if a person possessed these four qualities, should he be entrusted with the political work.

The representatives whom we are going to elect should have abundant love for the nation and the people, should possess enough knowledge on the public issues, should take decisions with clear minds, and should not be greedy to acquire wealth using his power.



Celebrate Democracy: Voting is Not Only Our Right; It is Our National Responsibility and Duty



Articles 325 and 326 of the Indian Constitution provide adult suffrage and 'right to vote' to any Indian citizen above the age of 18, irrespective of religion, caste, race or sex. Even when developed nations like UK provided selective voting rights in the early years of their democracy, India is the only nation in the world which provided constitutional right of 'adult suffrage' from the first day of its elections.

The Indian Election Commission created by the Constitution deserves 'kudos' for the smooth and transparent conduct of the world's largest elections. The nationwide exercise of the General Elections involving 6.4 lakh places, 8.5 lakh polling stations and 11 lakh Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and deploying nearly 10 million Government officials/Security forces is one of the world wonders. In spite of internal and external forces working against the nation, our Indian Election Commission remains the 'world's biggest event manager'.



During the first General Elections conducted in 1952, India had 23.7 crore of registered voters. The elections were held for 401 Parliament Constituencies. The voter turnout was 67.6%. In the 2004 General Elections for the 14th Lok Sabha, elections were held for 543 constituencies with 67.1 crore registered voters and 58% voter turnout. In 2009, elections for the current 15th Lok Sabha, were held in 543 constituencies with 71.7 crore registered voters and 58.2% voter turnout.



On an average, the General Elections witness a turnout of around 60%. The indifference of nearly 40% of the voters is the reason for many of the problems faced by the country. Generally, the potential middle class voters do not cast their votes, and later cry from the roof top about the poor execution of duties and bad governance by the elected rulers.

This phenomenon is seen more in urban and metro centres. The fall-out of such indifferent attitude of non-voters is that the political parties with 30% vote share are able to form the Government at both the Centre and in the states. The Indian Constitution does not only provide rights to every citizen, it also entrusts great responsibility on every citizen to be part of the democratic process.

The 16th General Elections to be held shortly in 2014, is going to witness a large number of new voters in all the constituencies. As per the official report, the registered voters for this General Election is 81.5 crores. This amounts to around 15 lakh voters in every Lok Sabha constituency. This time, every constituency will have 1.8 lakh new voters on an average. Of this, nearly half of them (90,000) are first time voters from the age group of 18 to 22 years. Interestingly, in the 2009 General Elections, in 226 constituencies, the vote difference between the winner and the runner up was around 40,000. Hence, the new generation and first-time voters are going to play a greater role in the formation of the 16th Lok Sabha.



These young voters look at governance from a different perspective. Their expectations are different. They are restless and social media driven. They are also highly emotional. Since they are going to play a great role in the General Elections, they need to be aware of the political systems and the importance of governance and democracy. They should feel proud that they are going to participate in the constitution the 16th Lok Sabha. They should cast their vote to the right candidate, going beyond caste, religion, race and sex.

If we fail to discharge our national duty, we lose our right to criticise the rulers for another 5 years.

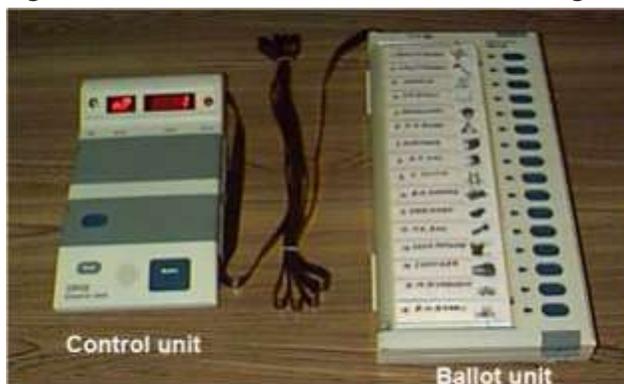
Let us Celebrate Democracy.

.



Celebrate Democracy: Interesting Facts about Indian Elections

Electronic Voting Machines (EVM): Nearly 11 lakh Electronic Voting Machines are used in the General Elections, covering 8.5 lakh polling station. EVMs were devised and designed by the Election Commission in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad. Every machine can support 64 candidates and record 3840 voters. Since every polling station in India has only a maximum of 1500 voters, one EVM is sufficient for every station. EVMs manufactured in 1989-90, were used on an experimental basis for the first time in 16 Assembly Constituencies in the States of Madhya Pradesh (5), Rajasthan (5) and NCT of Delhi (6) at the General Elections to the respective Legislative Assemblies held in November, 1998.



Indelible Ink or Voter's Ink: This special ink is manufactured by Mysore Paints and Varnish Limited, a State owned public sector company in Karnataka. This company supplies the indelible ink to several other countries too. This ink dries in 40 seconds and cannot be removed for 20 days. This prevents fake voting. A 10-ml bottle can be used for 300 voters. This company supplied 2 million bottles in the 2009 General Elections.

First Chief Election Commissioner of India Shri Sukumar Sen, a Civil Servant from Bengal was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India. He prepared the first electoral rolls of the country and developed the systems. The first General Election was held between 25 October 1951 and 21 February 1952. During this first election, a different ballot box was used for each candidate, rather than using the ballot paper! Different coloured boxes represented different parties. Later, ballot papers were introduced with the candidate's name and symbol. In 2004, EVMs were used in all the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies. 1033 candidates contested in the Modakurichi assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu in 1996. The ballot paper was in the form of a booklet!



Nation's 5 biggest and 5 smallest constituencies according to area:

Biggest constituencies:

Barmer (Rajasthan) : 71601.24 sq-km
Ladakh (J&K) : 173266.37 sq-km
Arunachal (East) (AP): 39749.64 sq-km
Kuchh (Gujarat) : 41644.55 sq-km
Arunachal(West) AP: 40572.29 sq-km

Smallest constituencies:

Mumbai South: 13.73 sq-km
Mumbai South-central: 18.31 sq-km
Delhi sadar: 28.09 sq-km
Chandni chowk (Delhi): 10.59 sq-km
Kolkata north west 13.23 sq-km



Celebrate Democracy: National Seminar on Politics, Democracy and Governance

As part of the 'Sansad Ratna Award' function, a National Seminar on 'Politics, Democracy and Governance' was organised by your ezine, PreSense and the Prime Point Foundation, jointly with the Humanities and Social Sciences Department of IIT Madras at IIT Auditorium on 15th Feb 2014. A large number of youth from different centres participated in the function.



The seminar was divided into three sessions. The day's events kick-started with the first session of a presentation by Mr Arvind Sivaramakrishnan, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu. He covered a session on 'Electoral Systems and the Composition of Elected Assemblies in Various Democracies'. He elaborated on how the vote share gained and the seats gained did not match each other. He also compared the electoral system in India with those of other countries.



The second session was a panel discussion on 'Media and Politics', anchored and moderated by Ms. Bhanu Gomes, Editor of New Gen Thamizhan, Tamil ezine, published by Prime Point Foundation. Media specialists like Mr Ramalingam (Dinamalar), Mr R Bhagwan Singh (Deccan Chronicle), Mr Pandey (Thanthi TV) and Mr Badri Seshadri (Internet media expert) joined Ms Josephine (social worker) as the panellists, who participated in the discussions.

Burning issues like solely market-driven media, paid news, sensationalised news and several such related issues were discussed and debated upon. The panelists from the media explained the economics of publishing a newspaper. While it cost Rs.12/- to publish a newspaper, it sold at Rs.3/-. The deficit of Rs.9/- was met by the revenue generated from advertisements. For this reason, some newspaper houses were compelled to be market-driven in their reporting too.

The third session was a post-lunch panel discussion on 'Mandate 2014' relating to the national elections to be held later in the year. The panelists were politicians, viz. Mr H. Raja (BJP), Mr T. K. Rangarajan, MP (CPIM), Mr Gobanna (Congress), Mr Thol Thirumavalavan, MP (VCK), Mr David (AAP), and Mr Maalan (a senior journalist). Ms Bhanu Gomes anchored and moderated this panel discussion too.





During this discussion, all the representatives of the political parties shared their policies and their agenda for the General Elections 2014. Although the panellists affirmed their different ideologies, generating enthused debate amongst themselves, they exercised courteous restraint even while expressing and challenging the opinions and views of one another.



The high point towards the conclusion of the day's event was the introduction of Ms. Divya on stage. Parentless, the brilliant Divya was adopted by the Education Loan Task Force (ELTF) and the Action2020 teams, initiatives of this ezine, PreSense. With the support of ELTF, she secured education loan from Canara Bank and completed her studies this year scoring a University rank. She was recognised for this achievement, braving challenges and odds in her personal front. Mr T. K. Rangarajan MP, Mr P Subbramanian (DGM, Canara Bank) and Mr Arumugam (AGM, Canara Bank) honoured her with the presentation of a memento. For more details, visit <http://goo.gl/3cp9XS>
(By Susan Koshy, Editor, PreSense)

Celebrate Democracy: Which is the Best Suited Electoral System for India? Simple Majority or Single Transferable Vote – An Analysis

Dr. Arvind Sivaramakrishnan, Senior Deputy Editor of The Hindu, enlightened the audience at the National Seminar on Politics, Democracy and Governance held at IIT, Madras, with his presentation on the captioned topic, covering the subject of electoral systems. He explained that the legitimacy of all elected assemblies in India at all levels from the *Panchayat* (the Village Council) to the *Rajya Sabha* (the upper house of the Indian Parliament), was taken care of by the Indian Constitution and sustained by at least two factors, viz the electorate's commitment to the ballot box, and secondly the quality of the Central Election Commission which conducted and supervised the elections.

India followed the Simple Majority Electoral System, except for the election of the President

INDIAN GENERAL ELECTION 2009			
543 seats in the Lok Sabha	272 needed for a majority		
	Congress	BJP	Left Front
Seats	262	159	79
Seat Share	48%	29%	15%
Vote Share	37.22%	24.63%	21.15%
Under- or over-representation in number of seats	+60	+25	-36

(Adapted from Wikipedia)

of India and to the Rajya Sabha. He elaborated on the characteristics of the Simple Majority Electoral System which was a straightforward victory by at least a single vote. He continued with the comparison of the statistics relating to the votes cast as against the seats won, and the corresponding vote share, disclosing some surprising results from the study. He showed from the statistics that there was no direct relation between the votes cast and the seats won, resulting in over-representation or under-representation of the elected political parties, when compared with the vote share of the respective parties.

Even as Dr. Arvind enlisted the advantages and disadvantages of this system, he presented an alternative electoral system called the Single Transferable Vote or the Fully Proportional System. Its main feature was voting for the candidates by preference and ranking, so that the seat was won by a minimum quota figure +1 (and not just a straightforward victory by at least one vote, irrespective of the vote share). This system also provided for the political parties to field more than one candidate per constituency. He elaborated on the advantages and disadvantages of this system and shared the information about its application and success in the electoral system in some of the other countries in the world.

Dr. Arvind concluded his presentation with the proposal of the Single Transferable Vote in India to address some of the critical electoral problems faced in the Single Majority Electoral System followed by India and some other countries. Dr. Arvind's presentation was appreciated by the audience with an enthusiastic ovation. His presentation is available for viewing and downloading in this link: <http://goo.gl/3cp9XS>

(By Susan Koshy, Editor, PreSense)



 Celebrate Democracy
5th Sansad Ratna Awards
 22nd February 2014 - Chennai



14th Lok Sabha (2004-2009)

On the last day of the sitting of the 14th Lok Sabha in February 2009, then Hon'ble Speaker, Sri Somnath Chatterjee, expressed his concern about the deteriorating quality of the Members of Parliament. He had also pointed out that nearly 24% of the Parliament time was wasted in disruptions. The entire nation was discussing the poor conduct of the Parliament. When the 15th Elections were announced in 2009, we deemed it appropriate to highlight the role of the Parliament in democracy, in our ezine, PreSense. Our 37th edition (March 2009) carried interesting details about our Parliament, with information about the top performing MPs of the 14th Lok Sabha. Please read the March 2009 edition of ezine: <http://goo.gl/EVtPZf>

Duties of Parliamentarians

In 2009, the 15th Lok Sabha was constituted after the 15th General Elections. As per the Constitution, the duties of the MPs are a) making laws, b) supervising the Government and holding them accountable, c) discussing and passing financial budgets and d) taking up issues affecting the people. For this purpose, the Parliament offers instruments like a) participation in debates, b) introduction of private bills and c) raising of questions.

Instituting Awards - 15h Lok Sabha

In 2010, on behalf of your ezine, PreSense and the Prime Point Foundation, we instituted the Sansad Ratna Award to honour top performing MPs on the basis of their initiation and participation in a) debates, b) private members bills, and c) raising questions. We honoured the top performing MPs, based on the cumulative total tally of debates, private bills and questions up to the corresponding Budget Session in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, with the presentation of the Sansad Ratna Awards to them.

Sansad Ratna Awards - 5th edition

The 5th and final edition of the Sansad Ratna Award function was held at the Chennai Press Club on Saturday, the 22nd Feb 2014. We selected 9 MPs, who had scored a total tally of more than 1000 for Sansad Ratna Awards 2014. We selected 3 women MPs among the top performing women MPs for Sansad Mahila Ratna Award.



Out of 12 MPs selected, 8 MPs confirmed their participation to receive the Awards at Chennai. 3 MPs had to cancel the visit in the last minute due to political developments in their respective states. 5 MPs received the Awards from Shri N Gopalswami, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India. It may be recalled that it was Mr Gopalswami who issued the notification for the 15th General Elections and conducted a part of the elections before his retirement.



(L to R) Rama Devi MP, SS Ramasubbu MP, Gajanan Babbar MP, N Gopalswami (Former CEC), Shivaji Adhalrao Patil MP, Hansraj G Ahir MP, K Srinivasan (Editor in Chief, PreSense)

MPs Who rank No 1 in Each Category

Shri Anandrao Adsul (Shiv Sena MP from Maharashtra) topped the 15th Lok Sabha with a total tally of 1304. He ranked first in the Lok Sabha in the questions category for raising 1266 questions. It may be noted that Mr Adsul topped in the 14th Lok Sabha too for the total tally and for raising questions.

Shri Hansraj G Ahir (BJP MP from Maharashtra) ranked first for introducing private members bills. He introduced 31 private members bills and his total tally was 1150. He introduced the 'Land Acquisition Bill' as a private members bill in 2007 in the 14th Lok Sabha, and again in 2010 in the current 15th Lok Sabha. Recently, this landmark bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and made into an Act.

Shri Arjunram Meghwal (BJP MP from Rajasthan) ranked first in participation in debates. He participated in 430 debates in the 15th Lok Sabha. His total tally was 1199. (Although we are not able to obtain confirmed data, in our observation, Shri Arjunram Meghwal should be the MP who participated in the maximum number of debates in the past 64 years. We are trying to secure the related data for confirmation).

We are proud to honour them with the Sansad Ratna Awards. The purpose of our Award is to encourage such Lok Sabha heroes and motivate others to perform better. Please visit www.sansadratna.in for details. (Source of Data: www.prsindia.org)

(By K.Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense)



MPs Selected for Sansad Ratna Awards 2014

MP name	State	party	Debate s	Private Member Bills	Questions	Total debates+pvt bills+questions	Attendance
Anandrao Adsul	Maharashtra	SS	35	3	1266	1304	74%
S.S. Ramasubbu	Tamil Nadu	INC	171	2	1063	1236	97%
Gajanan Dharmshi Babar	Maharashtra	SS	24	0	1176	1200	72%
Arjun Ram Meghwal	Rajasthan	BJP	430	20	749	1199	99%
Asaduddin Owaisi	Andhra Pradesh	AIMEI	40	1	1129	1170	69%
Hansraj Gangaram Ahir	Maharashtra	BJP	114	31	1005	1150	72%
Pradeep Kumar Majhi	Orissa	INC	9	0	1101	1110	54%
Shivaji Adhalrao Patil	Maharashtra	SS	10	0	1082	1092	43%
Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad	Maharashtra	INC	11	0	1020	1031	98%
Supriya Sule	Maharashtra	NC	38	5	739	782	86%
Ratna Singh	Uttar Pradesh	INC	37	0	677	714	86%
Rama Devi	Bihar	BJP	84	0	627	711	89%

Media Should Focus on Performing MPs – Dr Kalam

On 8th Feb 2014, I had the opportunity to travel with Dr Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. We had a detailed discussion about the ruckus in the Parliament and the loss to the nation. He expressed his deep concern over the disruptions in the Parliament. I mentioned about the 'top performing MPs' who quietly discharged their constitutional duties and how the media did not focus on the issues of the people and the performing MPs. On the same day, he referred to this issue in his speech.

Quote ***"The media should not focus on those MPs who disrupt the Parliament and create a blot in the Parliamentary democracy and make them 'heroes'. For the sake of our country, the media should celebrate top-performing MPs, and discuss and highlight the important issues pending before the Parliament, particularly when it is not functioning. It should focus on issues of importance rather on the conduct of erring MPs. Once the media start to focus on constructive debates and celebrate good performance, pseudo heroism in the form of disrupting the Parliament, will come down. Let us hope for the best in parliamentary democracy through our conscientious action."*** Unquote

- by K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense



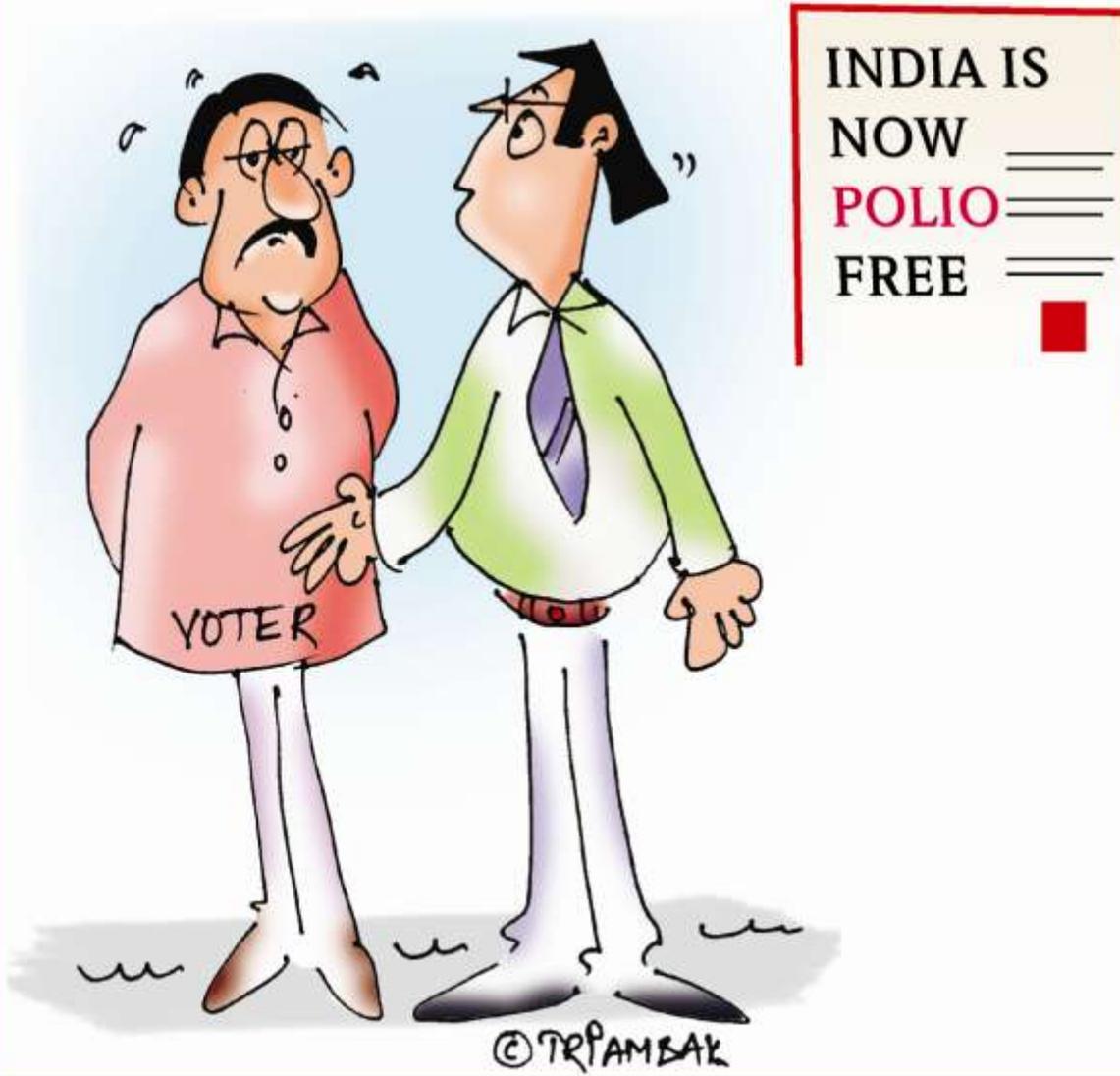
PRince

By- TRIAMBAK SHARMA



www.cartoonwatchindia.com, cartoonwatch@gmail.com

Now its your turn to give
POLIO free GOVERNMENT
in 2014





Sukruti Vadula, a member on the Editorial team members of your ezine, *PreSense*, received the "Communicator of the Year - Young Visionary Award" on 14th February, 2014 from the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI), for her outstanding contribution to the profession, industry and society. Ms Rajshree Birla presented the Awards. Mr M B Jayaram, Chairman Emeritus of PRCI was also present.

Vikram Kharvi, founder of the Indian PR Forum received the 'Outstanding PR Professional of the Year 2014' for his outstanding contribution to the Indian PR community. The award was given by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) on 14th Feb 2014 at Mumbai. Ms Rajshree Birla presented the award. Mr M B Jayaram, Chairman Emeritus of PRCI was also present.



Ms Susan Koshy, who is associated with your ezine *PreSense* for a long time as a member of the Editorial Team, takes over as Editor from the Feb 2014 edition. She is a former General Manager of IDBI Bank Limited.

She is a training facilitator in soft skills and professionally qualified for teaching the English language.

- K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief

Please download all the back issues of our ezine from

www.corpezine.com

Please visit our political analysis at www.primepoint.in



केनरा बैंक
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम



Canara Bank

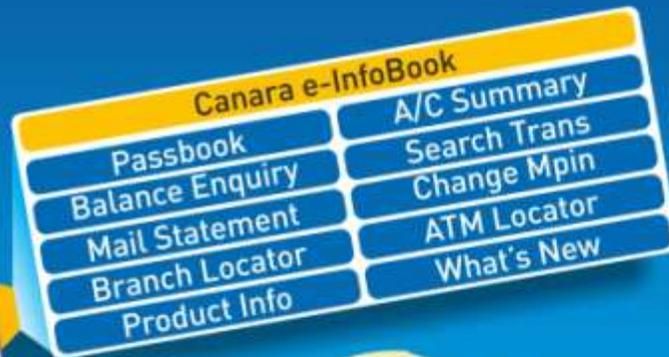
A Government of India Undertaking

Together We Can

Zip. Zap. With the Canara e-InfoBook App.

Manage your bank account from your Android / Windows mobile phones.

Canara Bank introduces the new e-InfoBook facility for its customers.



Scan for online facilities
Windows and trademarks or registered trademarks of Microsoft corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



Download application through app store / play store.

Now you can open your SB / PPF account online. Just log on to our website.

Toll Free : 1800 425 0018

Save Trees. Save Water. Save Environment

www.canarabank.com



Presenters of *PreSense*

Editorial Team



K. Srinivasan
Editor in Chief



Susan Koshy
Editor



V. Rajendran



Triambak Sharma

Editorial Team



Sukruti A Vadula

Editorial Advisors



V. Ponraj



Jhon A



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

