

# PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

Issue No 72 – Mar 2013  
Published by Prime Point Foundation

## Man of the month



**Pope Francis**

## In this Issue:

- P2 Sansad Ratna Awards 2013
- P3 Cover Story – Pope Francis
- P6 Vivekananda 150
- P8 Ancient Indian Wisdom Ram Setu
- P9 Dandi Yatra
- P12 Alexander's 3 wishes
- P13 PRince Toon
- P14 Controversy
- P15 Ignited Minds – Top MPs

---

## Contact

[www.corpezine.com](http://www.corpezine.com)

[editor@corpezine.com](mailto:editor@corpezine.com)

## From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief



We are pleased to release the 72nd edition of our ezine. As usual, we have included very interesting and informative articles on the new Pope Francis, Ram Setu, Vivekananda's Chicago trip, etc.

We have also brought out the performance score card of the top performing MPs of Lok Sabha till the end of Part I of Budget Session 2013.

Every year, on behalf of our ezine we honour the top performing MPs with Sansad Ratna Award. The 2013 Award function is scheduled at IIT, Madras on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013. We will be honouring these top performers.

We are confident that readers will find the articles very useful. Please send your feedback to us.

*K. Srinivasan*

### **National Seminar on 'Politics, Democracy and Governance' & Presentation of Sansad Ratna Awards 2013 to top performing Parliamentarians at**

**IC & SR Auditorium, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras on  
Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

#### **Programme:**

- 09.30 AM Presentation on "Parliamentary system and tracking the performance of legislators" by PRS Legislative Research, Delhi
- 11.00 AM Presentation of Sansad Ratna Awards 2013 to top performing Lok Sabha Members by Dr K Rosaiah, His Excellency Governor of Tamilnadu
- 12.00 noon Interaction session with top performing Parliamentarians.
- 02.00 PM Panel Discussion on "Politics, Democracy and Governance" – Senior leaders from different political parties and senior journalists will be the panellists.

Admission free – No participation charges – Registration needed

<http://prpoint.com/poll/index.php/931456/lang-en>

(This programme is organised by Prime Point Foundation, your Ezine PreSense jointly with Department of Humanities and Science, IIT Madras)

## Cover Story

### New Pope takes over

#### Vatican panorama from St.Peters Basilica



Subsequent to the sudden resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on 28th February 2013, the papal conclave of 2013 was convened to elect a pope. On 12th March 2013, 115 cardinal-electors gathered at the Vatican to begin the conclave. White smoke was seen emanating from the Sistine Chapel chimney on 13 March at 19:06 local time, following the fifth ballot, and the bells began pealing minutes after, signifying the election of a new pope. The conclave elected Jorge Mario Bergoglio, an Argentine cardinal and Archbishop of Buenos Aires, who selected the papal name of Francis, in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi, an admirer of nature and a servant to the poor and destitute. Pope Francis assumed charge on 19th March 2013 with a Mass in Saint Peter's Square.

With the election of the new Pope, he assumed charge as the 'Head of the State' of the world's small country, Vatican with a population of around 800 people spread over 0.44 sq. km.

Born in Buenos Aires of Italian descent, Bergoglio worked briefly as a chemical technician before entering the seminary; he was ordained in 1969. From 1973 to 1979, he was Argentina's Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus, became Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998, and was created cardinal in 2001. Bergoglio is the first Jesuit pope; the first pope from the Americas, and the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere.



Throughout his life, both as an individual and as a religious leader, he is known for his humility, his concern for the poor, and his commitment to dialogue as a way to build bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths. Since his election to the papacy, he has displayed a simpler and less formal approach to the office, including a decision to reside in the Vatican guesthouse rather than the papal residence used by his predecessors since 1903.

A majority of popes have been Italians. But with Francis' appointment, the tide could be shifting to outside Europe.

In his first public act as pontiff, Pope Francis broke with tradition by asking the estimated 150,000 people packed into St. Peter's Square to pray for him, rather than his blessing the crowd first.

The pontiff broke with another tradition by refusing to use a platform to elevate himself above the cardinals standing with him as he was introduced to the world as Pope Francis.

Pope Francis opposes same-sex marriage and abortion, and this is not surprising as leader of the socially conservative Catholic church. The new Pope also faces another challenge of finding ways of working with shifting viewpoints among Catholics. In the United States, for example, 90% of Catholics use contraception and 82% think it is morally permissible.

PreSense prays for the successful tenure of the new Pope Francis.

---

Please download all the earlier editions of ezine PreSense

[www.corpezine.com](http://www.corpezine.com)

Listen to all our earlier podcasts at

[www.poduniversal.com](http://www.poduniversal.com)

How to protect your debit / credit cards?



Never lose sight of your card.

Never give back-to-back xerox copy of your card

Never let the card be taken to anywhere for swiping, in your absence.

Ensure the card is swiped only once and only in the authorised device.

Wherever available, opt for a chip-based card (which cannot be cloned) as against the more popular magnetic strip-based card (which can be cloned or skimmed easily) and opt for a Two-Factor Authentication card, ie where you go to the swiping device at the shop and enter your PIN there.

By V Rajendran, Sr. Vice President, Cyber Society of India, [www.cysi.in](http://www.cysi.in)

## Inspiring Quote from the Speech of Dr Abdul Kalam

### Healthcare as a social entrepreneurial mission

---

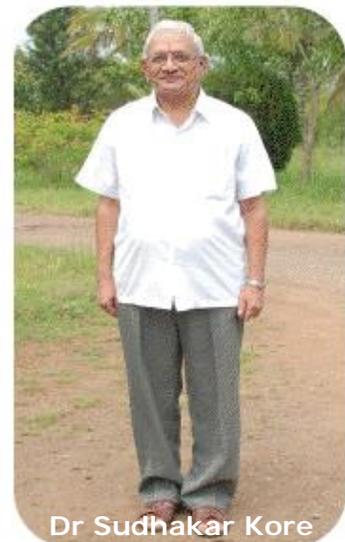
Friends, in February 2010, I visited the Warana valley of Kolhapur, Maharashtra. There, I witnessed how a co-operative movement by the local farmers and villagers is bringing out a socio-economic transformation of the people and the region. The Warana PURA complex has many initiatives for the income generation and amenities for about 60,000 families in the Warana area. One of the initiatives which I visited was the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital at New Pargaon at Warana.



The Mahatma Gandhi Hospital was established by late Shri Tatyasaheb Kore and his son, Dr. Sudhakar Kore, who manages the hospital now. Dr Sudhakar Kore (photo) is an MBBS and MS in General Surgery. After his education in 1970, Dr Sudhakar Kore worked in many famous hospitals of Scotland, UK for seven years. All

this time, his native village of Warana was lacking in healthcare, and the locals had to go to distant cities of Pune and Mumbai for even minor treatments. Dr. Kore wanted to do service for his nation and the people of Warana. Thus, in 1979, he chose to return to Warana Valley, leaving his foreign job, to serve local need. He started his own hospital in Sangli district along with his family. With the help of the co-operative movement, Mahatma Gandhi Charitable Trust was established in Warana which led to the birth of Mahatma Gandhi Hospital. This not-for-profit hospital was established on 2nd October 1992. The Mahatma Gandhi hospital is a 225 bedded hospital with 2 medical sub-centres of 25 beds each, located about 10 kilometers from the base hospital.

Today, this hospital has an area of 110,000 square feet and is built over an area of 27 acres. It has four Operation Theatres for providing a modern surgery facility to the population within Warana. The Mahatma Gandhi Hospital and its extension healthcare centres are offering various healthcare facilities like medicine, surgeries, orthopedics, obstetrics, pediatrics, ophthalmology, ENT, pathology and radiology at affordable cost and even free to the needy. Dr Sudhakar Kore is an example of how educated and talented doctors with the spirit of social entrepreneurship and with the help of a co-operative movement, can bring about a transformation in the healthcare for people living in an area of poor accessibility. The doctors and healthcare professionals graduating today may like to think on how they can apply their knowledge in an entrepreneurial way to achieve a great societal mission.



Source: [www.abdulkalam.com](http://www.abdulkalam.com)

---

## Vivekananda 150

### Interesting facts and unknown people behind Swami Vivekananda's visit to Chicago

#### Swami Vivekananda's visit to Ramnad



After Shri Ramakrishna Paramahamsar's passing away in 1896, Swami Vivekananda started a padayatra of the country. In 1892, he visited Ramanathapuram and stayed with Bhaskara Sethupathy, the King of Ramnad. Shri Bhaskara Sethupathy, even at his young age of 24, was a great scholar in Saiva philosophy. At that time, he had an invitation from 'Parliament of World Religions 1893', to be held in Chicago and was preparing to travel to USA.

When Bhaskara Sethupathy interacted with Swami Vivekananda, he realised that Swami was the right person to attend the World Parliament of religions and to present the Indian spiritual views. He became Swamiji's disciple and requested Swamiji to go to USA to attend the World Parliament of Religions. He was even willing to fund his trip to the maximum extent, cancelling his own visit. Swamiji initially declined this offer.

#### Decision at Kanyakumari

Then he moved to Kanyakumari, the southern tip of the country on 24th December 1892. There is a rock in the sea, 500 metres from the mainland. Since the fishermen were busy celebrating the Christmas Eve, no one was willing to take him to the rock. Without any hesitation, he immediately reached the rock by swimming across the sea. He was in meditation for two days on the rock and got enlightenment about his duties. He decided that he would go to Chicago to participate in the World Parliament of Religions. This rock is now known as the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and it is a popular tourist place.



**Vivekananda rock memorial at Kanyakumari where Swamiji got enlightenment**

Swamiji then returned to Ramnad and stayed with Bhaskara Sethupathy. He accepted his suggestion of going to Chicago and participate in the World Parliament of Religions.

## Support by the Madras students

From Ramnad, he visited Madras (now known as Chennai). Since he was in need of more money, Mr. Azhagiya Singaperumal, professor of Pachayappa's College, Madras and many of his students went on door-to-door collection of money to raise funds for Vivekananda's USA trip. Swamiji was highly inspired by the enthusiasm shown by Bhaskara Sethupathy and the people of Madras about his journey to USA. From Madras, he left for Bombay and proceeded to Chicago by ship.



Swamiji at Chicago 1893

royal welcome there. He reverentially bowed his head and offered it as a step for Vivekananda to land from the boat as Vivekananda was coming back to Mother land after five years. But, Swamiji tactfully avoided by jumping from the boat on the land. Since the King was kneeling down in this place to receive Swamiji, this place is now known as 'Kundukal', in Tamil, meaning 'keeling down'. A memorial is also erected in this place to mark the historic landing of Swamiji after his visit to Chicago, successfully establishing himself as the Spiritual Ambassador of India.

After landing, Swamiji was to be taken in a procession to the town in a chariot with six horses. After Swamiji boarded the ceremonial chariot, suddenly Bhaskara Sethupathy unyoked the horses from Vivekananda's ceremonial chariot and pulled the chariot manually with his entourage till it reached his palace in spite of the repeated cries of "no no" by Swamiji.

Later he erected a victory pillar of 25 feet height with the Upanishad expression Satyameva Jayate to commemorate the success of Swami Vivekananda at Chicago.

## Returning to India after a victorious trip to America and Europe

After Swami Vivekananda's Chicago speech, he became very popular in India. After touring America and Europe for four years, he preferred to return to India via Ramnad and Madras as a mark of gratitude to the people who encouraged him to go to Chicago.

On 26th Jan 1897, he returned to India by a steamer from Sri Lanka. When he was about to land at Pamban, Bhaskara Sethupathy, the King of Ramnad was waiting with his entourage to give him a



## Ancient Indian Wisdom

### Ram Setu, an Engineering marvel

#### Ram Setu, a civil engineering marvel

In the recent years, Ram Setu has become a controversial political issue with one section of people claiming it to be a 'natural phenomenon' and another other section claiming it to be



'man-made'. Ram Setu is the sea bridge believed to have been constructed by Sri Rama to take his army to Sri Lanka to conquer King Ravana and to rescue Sita. Going beyond the religious sentiments and controversies, this Ram Setu is one of the great civil engineering marvels of our ancient India.

The description of the buildings and the cities in both Ramayana and Mahabarata prove that our ancient Indians had expertise in creating infrastructure. Even Viswakarma and Mayan were noted builders of infrastructure.

Our ancestors were quite experienced in astronomical aspects also. Ramayana and

Mahabarata synchronise various events with planetary movements and their configuration. Such descriptions help our modern day researchers to exactly identify the period through various softwares. Going by the various descriptions of the planetary movements, Mr. D. K. Hari, a researcher says that Ram Setu was constructed around Sep 5076 (BC).

#### Valmiki describing the sea bridge

The slokas 6.22.50 to 72 of Yudha Kanda of Valmiki Ramayana describe how a sea bridge was constructed to take the army to Lanka. Nala, a biological descendent of Viswakarma was the Chief Architect of this Ram Setu. Rama describes the difficulties in constructing this sea bridge to Sita while returning from Lanka and names this bridge as 'Nala Setu', in honour of the Chief Architect. In the later days, it was also named as Ram Setu, Setubhandan and Adams Bridge.



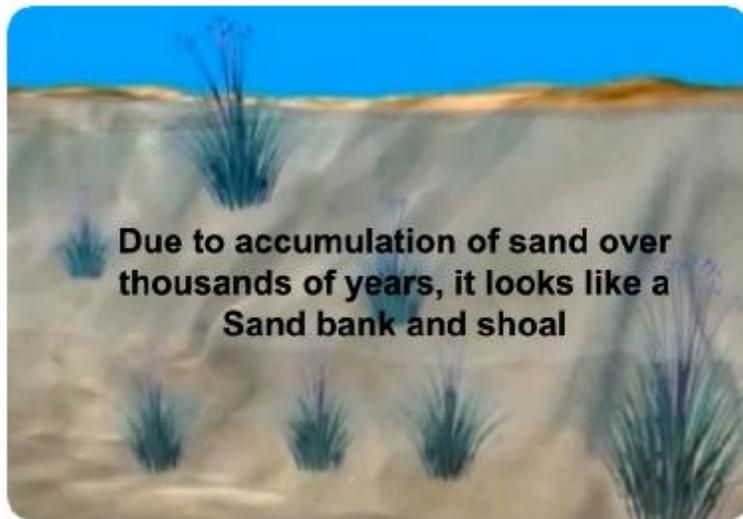
Valmiki Ramayana description of layers of Ram Setu

Those Slokas describe the bridge construction process like Surveying, Planning, Execution and Post Completion Works.

Valmiki also describes the various layers and foundation details in the sea bridge. Wood from various trees (names are mentioned) were tied and placed underneath. On the trees, big and small stones were piled. Finally, they made flat a finish, to ensure the smooth movement of the army.

### Present condition

Due to passage of time over thousands of years, sand has got accumulated over this sea bridge. Presently, it looks like a sandbank and shoal. If we are able to remove the sand, we could see the layers. The wood that was placed as foundation might have solidified and would have become rocks over a period of years.



Valmiki describes the planned efforts and also the linear alignment of this bridge. Now, NASA pictures taken through Satellite prove the linear alignment. The bridge was in use till 1480 connecting India with Lanka. After a Tsunami, it got submerged in the sea. In a few places, these sandbanks can be seen over the sea level.

Valmiki describes the length of the bridge as 100 yojanas and width as 10 yojanas. That means, the bridge was constructed at 10:1 ratio.

Presently, the length of the bridge is 35km and the width is 3.5km, confirming the description by Valmiki.

### Urgent need to explore ancient wisdom

A few years ago, the Geological Survey of India did some research on the Ram Setu. They are yet to make their report public.

We should understand that Valmiki was only a poet and wrote a historical event in a poetic form. He was not a technical person. These descriptions definitely indicate the supremacy of the technical knowledge in India around 7000 years back. Ancient Indian scriptures contain lot of technological and scientific facts in Sanskrit. They need to be researched in depth to understand many of the 'unexplored' treasures of our ancient India.

There are also demands that United Nations should conduct an elaborate research on Ram Setu and to declare this as a 'World Heritage Site'.

With input and photo courtesy: Mr. D. K. Hari, Bharathgyan <http://www.bharathgyan.com/>



## National – Remembering Historic Events

### Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi Yatra shook the foundations of British Raj



Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram

On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi set out on foot from his Sabarmati Ashram along with 78 satyagrahis for the coastal village of Dandi, Gujarat. This Dandi March is an important part of the Indian independence movement. It was a direct action campaign of tax resistance and non-violent protest against the British salt monopoly in colonial India, and triggered the wider Civil Disobedience Movement. This was the most significant, organised challenge to British authority since the Non-cooperation Movement of 1920–22, and directly followed the Purna Swaraj declaration of independence by the Indian National Congress on January 26, 1930.



Mahatma Gandhi walked for 24 days to cover the distance of 240 miles (390 km) to produce salt without paying the tax. Thousands of satyagrahis and leaders like Sarojini Naidu joined him. Every day, more and more people joined the march, until the procession of marchers became at least two miles long.

## Massive support from the people



At Surat, they were greeted by 30,000 people. When they reached Dandi, more than 50,000 joined the procession. Gandhi gave interviews and wrote articles along the way. Foreign journalists made him a household name in Europe and America. The New York Times wrote almost daily about the Salt March, including two front-page articles on April 6 and April 7. Towards the end of the march, Gandhi declared, "I want world sympathy in this battle of Right Against Might."

When Mahatma Gandhi broke the salt laws at 6:30 am on April 6, 1930, it sparked large scale acts of civil disobedience against the British Raj salt laws by millions of Indians. The campaign had a significant effect on changing the world and the British attitude towards Indian independence and motivated a large numbers of Indians to join the fight, for the first time.

### Picking up the Salt and shaking the foundation of British Empire

On April 6, 1930 after a prayer, Gandhi raised a lump of salty mud and declared, "With this, I am shaking the foundations of the British Empire." Salt Satyagraha succeeded in drawing the attention of the world. Millions saw the newsreels showing the march. Time magazine declared Gandhi its 1930 Man of the Year.

## Rajaji leading the Salt Satyagraha in South

While Gandhi marched along India's west coast, his close associate C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji), who later became independent India's first Governor-General, did a parallel salt march on the east coast from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam.

On April 13, 1930, Rajaji started from Tiruchi and he was joined by large numbers of people at Thanjavur, Kumbakonam and other places till they reached the coastal village of Vedaranyam. Sixteen days later, Rajaji and his followers picked up a handful of salt and were immediately arrested and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.



Rajaji leading the Salt Satyagraha in South - Photo courtesy The Hindu

This 'Salt Satyagraha' was a turning point in the Indian freedom movement. This galvanised the Indians to fight against the mighty British.

## Alexander's three wishes

Alexander, after conquering many kingdoms, was returning home. On the way, he fell ill and was taken to his death bed. With death staring him in his face, Alexander realised how his conquests, his great army, his sharp sword and all his wealth were of no consequence. He now longed to reach home to see his mother's face and bid her his last adieu.



But, he had to accept the fact that his sinking health would not permit him to reach his distant homeland. So, the mighty conqueror lay prostrate and pale, helplessly waiting to breathe his last. He called his generals and said, "I will depart from this world soon, I have three wishes, please fulfil without fail."

With tears flowing down their cheeks, the generals agreed to abide by their king's last wishes. "My first desire is that," said Alexander, "My physicians alone must carry my coffin." After a pause, he continued, "Secondly, I desire that when my coffin is being carried to the grave, the path leading to the graveyard be strewn with gold, silver and precious stones which I have collected in my treasury." The king felt exhausted after saying this. He took a minute's rest and continued. "My third and last wish is that both my hands be kept dangling out of my coffin."

The people who had gathered there wondered at the king's strange wishes. But no one dare bring the question to their lips. Alexander's favourite general kissed his hand and pressed them to his heart. "O king, we assure you that your wishes will all be fulfilled. But tell us why do you make such strange wishes?"

At this, Alexander took a deep breath and said: "I would like the world to know of the three lessons I have just learnt. I want my physicians to carry my coffin because people should realise that no doctor can really cure any body. They are powerless and cannot save a person from the clutches of death. So let not people take life for granted.

The second wish of strewing gold, silver and other riches on the way to the graveyard is to tell people that not even a fraction of gold will come with me. I spent all my life earning riches but cannot take anything with me. Let people realise that it is a sheer waste of time to chase wealth.

And about my third wish of having my hands dangling out of the coffin, I wish people to know that I came empty-handed into this world and empty-handed I go out of this world."

With these words, the king closed his eyes. Soon, he let death conquer him and breathed his last.

Source: unknown.

---

# PRince

www.cartoonwatchindia.com  
cartoonwatch@gmail.com



BY - TRIAMBAK SHARMA



KATJU SIR!! My Name is also "SANJAY"  
and I have worked in few films too...  
I will need your help after few months..  
informing you earlier.

## Controversy

### Katjus! Did you ever try to help or visit any of the families of 1993 victims?

After the recent Supreme Court confirmation of jail term for Sanjay Dutt, many celebrities and film fans have started pleading with the Governor and the President to pardon Sanjay Dutt. Markandeya Katju, the Chairman of Press Council of India defends the plea aggressively in every available channel, that Sanjay Dutt had already undergone mental agony, that he has a family, that he has acted in a film to promote Gandhiji's values.



It is highly shameful that a person who believes that 95% of Indians are fools or cattles, is making this campaign in favour of a criminal, who has been sentenced to jail by the apex court of this country.

If the same logic is applied, more than 90% of the convicts in various jails in India need to be pardoned. Many of them from the poor community, had committed crime to get some meagre money and their family members suffer much more than these Sanjay Dutt. Since they were not acting in films to earn huge amount of 'black money', they do not catch the attention of these Katjus and other Bollywood campaigners.



We should remember that in 1993 blast, 257 people died in Mumbai and more than 700 people were injured. Did any of these Katjus and others visit any one of the homes of these victims and study the plight of the children and the other family members? Did any of them help these children, if they could not pursue higher education, due to the loss of their bread winning member? On the other hand, they campaign for a person, who was hobnobbing with a terrorist group and had helped them to store their guns and hand grenades in his house. As per the audio records submitted to the Court, Sanjay Dutt was also in continuous touch with these terrorist groups, even after his arrest.



Rarely in India does a celebrity or a senior politician get punished for their wrong doing. When such things happen, let us not tinker the rare event. Let the Katjus realise that before law, all should be treated equally. Let them spend their time more usefully in helping the families of all terrorist victims.

## Ignited Minds

### Top performing Lok Sabha Members

The current 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha commenced its business on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009. So far, the Parliament has conducted 13 sessions, including the first Part of the Budget Session, with 303 sittings. PreSense congratulates the top performing Members of Lok Sabha.

Name	Debates	Private Members bills	Questions	Total	Attendance %
<b>Category A : Overall top performance (out of 508 MPs – excluding Ministers)</b>					
Anandrao Adsul, (SS) Maharashtra	33	3	1055	1091	76%
S.S. Ramasubbu (Congress) Tamilnadu	147	2	889	1038	97%
Arjun Ram Meghwal (BJP) Rajasthan	386	20	596	1002	99%
Gajanan Dharmshi Babar (SS) Maharashtra	20	0	977	997	71%
Hansraj Gangaram Ahir (BJP) Maharashtra	102	31	863	996	73%
<b>Category B – Toppers among Women MPs (out of 55 women MPs – excluding Ministers)</b>					
Supriya Sule (NC) Maharashtra	33	5	676	714	85%
Ratna Singh (Congress) UP	30	0	571	601	85%
Rama Devi (BJP) Bihar	61	0	518	579	88%
Jhansi Botcha Lakshmi (Cong) AP	131	2	345	478	90%
<b>Category C – Toppers among young MPs of age less than 35 (out of 10 MPs – excluding Ministers)</b>					
Dharmendra Yadav (SP) UP	19	0	770	789	74%
Varun Gandhi (BJP) UP	2	2	577	581	67%
Hamdullah Sayeed (Cong) Lakshadweep	34	2	501	537	83%

## Presenters of *PreSense*

### Editorial Team

---



K. Srinivasan



Susan Koshy



V. Rajendran



Triambak Sharma

### Editorial Advisors



V. Ponraj



Jhon A

---



Awards

Published by  
Prime Point Foundation

Feedback and sponsorship  
[editor@corpezine.com](mailto:editor@corpezine.com)

Past issues may be downloaded from  
[www.prpoint.com](http://www.prpoint.com)  
[www.primepointfoundation.org](http://www.primepointfoundation.org)  
[www.corpezine.com](http://www.corpezine.com)

Listen to India's first pod-magazine  
[www.poduniversal.com](http://www.poduniversal.com)  
one stop shop for podcasts on all subjects

To subscribe to this ezine.  
[www.prpoint.com/PR-e-Sense](http://www.prpoint.com/PR-e-Sense)