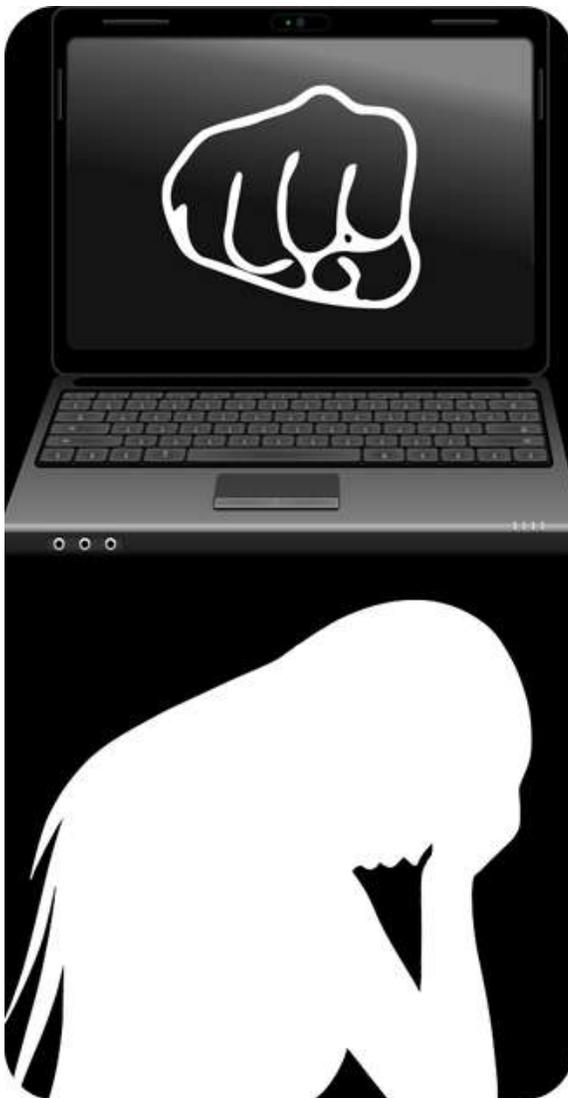


PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

Issue No 110 – April 2016
Published by Prime Point Foundation

Cover Story of the Month



Cyber Harassment

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Interview with
Dr Abdul Kalam**

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From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief



We are pleased to release the 110th (April 2016) edition of ezine PreSense with interesting contents. This issue is a unique one, where we have chosen to discuss the problems of women and disabled people.

We have discussed the problems faced by women through cyber harassment, and included some legal opinions relating to the issue. In another article, we have featured a group of victims who suffered acid attack, and who chose to face the life bravely. Even our cartoonist's page has illustrated on this theme to highlight the problems of women.

There is an article about the recent Panama papers. In the Archives Section, we have reproduced an exclusive interview with Dr Abdul Kalam, published by us in our April 2010 edition.

We are confident that you will find this edition interesting as usual. Please feel free to send us your valuable feedback to editor@corpezine.com.

K. Srinivasan

Şansad Râtnâ Awards 2016 7th Edition

Saturday the 11th June 2016 @ IIT Madras

Seventh Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards function will be held on Saturday the 11th June 2016 at IIT Madras. Since 2010, this ezine PreSense honours the top performing Parliamentarians with 'Sansad Ratna Awards', based on the cumulative performance of the members on three parameters viz. Debates, Private Members Bills and Questions. Besides, their attendance in the House and Committee Meetings, usage of MPLad funds are also taken into account as additional parameters.

Shri Anandrao Adsul, Shri Hansraj G Ahir and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, the outstanding Parliamentarians and 'Sansad Maha Ratna Awardees' of 15th Lok Sabha are the Judges to select the Awardees of the current 16th Lok Sabha.

This concept was developed in 2010 by this ezine PreSense, based on the concept "Celebrate Democracy" under the guidance of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

For more details please visit www.sansadratna.in
EMail : sansadratna@gmail.com



Editorial

The Differently Abled are Sufficiently Abled

We live in a country that professes unity in diversity. This coinage means that irrespective of the difference in the background one comes from, irrespective of the varying abilities, irrespective of the divergent ideas and ideologies, these multifarious thoughts, beliefs and aptitudes are employed in the common mission of living in harmony, contributing one's potential. However, the reality is that this is an idealistic situation and almost a myth. There is discriminatory and judgemental impression and approach towards those who are different from what is deemed "normal". Among the "different from normal" people of India are the people with disability, who believe they are getting a raw deal in life from the society of fellow citizens and the government. And they may not be far from the truth.

According to the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995, the Government of India recognises seven disabilities – low vision, visual impairment, hearing impairment, locomotor disability/cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple disabilities and mental illness (psycho social disabilities). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRD) has laid down some principles defining the rights of the people with disability and these also include "Respect for difference, and acceptance of persons with disabilities, as

The Government of India recognises seven disabilities – low vision, visual impairment, hearing impairment, locomotor disability/cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple disabilities and mental illness (psycho social disabilities).

part of human diversity and humanity", and "equality of opportunity". Theoretically, equal opportunities and facilities seem to be in place for them in India. However, in reality, it is a different story of discrimination and insensitivity.

There are two ways of supporting people who may be disadvantaged in society:

- One way is to extend concessions and compromises to them so that they continue to perform and live within their limitations.
- The other way is to extend the support system that will bring them UP from their disadvantageous position to the mainstream of "normal" life in the society.

Supporting them into the mainstream is the least we should do as a responsible and sensitive society and nation. For example, one can be patient with them when they cross the road, just as one should, with senior citizens, helping them along, if necessary. One should provide the facilities for their easy mobility on the pavements and roads, into vehicles and into buildings. One should provide aids (to cope with the disability) like Braille, talking computers, hearing aids and sign languages, mobility aids and suitable jobs for those with locomotor disability.

We know of many "normal" working men and women who seek special favours of work postings near home, or job transfers to preferred centres, or low-risk portfolio at work for personal convenience. We witness the country's politicians enjoying special privileges such as priority service, at public places as airports and roadways. Yet, much ado is made about providing the legitimate facilities to the people with disabilities.

What these fellow citizens are asking for is an environment that enables them to perform and live as independently as possible, in a normal society. In such a facilitated environment,



the differently-abled have already proved that they could compare and compete well with the normal people. In the final picture, it is the attitude that matters. To substantiate this point is the true story of Johnny the Bagger, who was stricken by the Down Syndrome (a congenital disorder causing intellectual impairment). Johnny worked in a supermarket, bagging (putting into bags) the groceries for the customer after the billing. Johnny was selected, along with the other employees of the supermarket, to listen to the motivational speaker, Barbara Glanz.

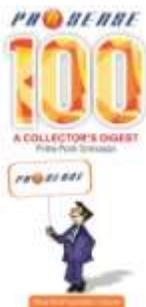
A month after the training session, the supermarket noticed a positive change in the inflow of customers in the supermarket and their upbeat attitude. The manager of the supermarket learnt that this change was brought about by Johnny who wanted to make a difference in his work place, motivated by Barbara Glanz's talk. He had thought out an idea of his own, and decided to add a "thought for the day" in a printout slip, put into the grocery bag of each customer every day. This gesture won the customers' appreciation. The gesture soon had a demonstration effect and motivated the other employees to implement little gestures in their own little ways to make a difference in the quality of their service to their customers. This transformed into an upbeat, positive and cheerful work culture in the supermarket and it also increased the sales in the store. All this happened because a Down Syndrome-affected worker had the right attitude and supportive environment to be recognised as a work force with capabilities.

This transformed into an upbeat, positive and cheerful work culture in the supermarket and it also increased the sales in the store. All this happened because a Down Syndrome-affected worker had the right attitude and supportive environment to be recognised as a work force with capabilities.

(Link to the video narrating the story of Johnny, the Bagger)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQIxLBqgFKc>

In the case of our own society, the attitude that needs to change is that of the "normal" people towards those with disabilities. We need to recognise them as "part of human diversity and humanity" and support them into the mainstream to enable them to live and achieve along with the others, and not be confined in an exclusive circle of their own.

By Susan Koshy, Editor



Download the 100th Edition of Ezine

"PreSense 100 - A Collector's Digest"

<https://goo.gl/X07s15>

**(Contains Select Articles
Published From Past Editions)**



Cover Story

The Safety of Women in Cyber Space

Are Ladies Safe in Cyber Space?

A month ago, I received a telephonic call from a lady television anchor, informing me about the harassment she was facing from some people, who abused her on Twitter, using indecent language. She had saved the screen shots of those tweets. Rajendran, PreSense Editorial Team Member and a Cyber Advocate, and I suggested to her to file a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police. Last week, she called me up again to lament that in spite of her lodging a complaint with the Police with proof of the tweet screen shots and the names of the offenders, the Police was not sure how to deal with the case, in the absence of Sec 66A (of the Information Technology Act 2000), which was struck down by Supreme Court in March 2015. The Police across the country have been receiving such complaints regularly and they take action by invoking the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to book the culprits. She also said that there were many young girls being constantly abused in the cyber space of the social media. She added that some of them had to take extreme step of even leaving their jobs, unable to handle the harassment by the abusers.

She then raised a relevant question. "When I walk on the street, and if someone uses abusive language against me, the Police can arrest the offender under IPC for 'eve teasing'. If an offender does a similar offence in the cyber world, the law is handicapped to arrest the offender. How are you going to protect your sisters and daughters from this menace?" Her question, choked with emotion, prompted our Editorial Team to write this Cover Story.

We conducted a quick online survey to gain some insight into the extent and intensity of such cyber harassment. Based on the responses, we discussed the issue with many experts and activists on the subject.

Problems Faced by Women

In the survey, many of the women respondents complained about the abusive, indecent, derogatory and vulgar calls, messages and images they received through mobile phone calls, the social media and the WhatsApp. All these abuses are called 'cyber stalking'.

One of the Chennai-based lady respondents reported that a photographer, whose services were engaged for her wedding, took some close-up pictures of her in suggestive poses. The photographer then posted one of those pictures on his Facebook page. When she got to know of this mischief, she complained to the Police. However, the police expressed helplessness in taking action against him, as the photographer was politically connected and used his political connections to avoid criminal action against him.

Recently, a senior male student of a reputed college uploaded some photographs of some girl students, on his Facebook page, displaying them with vulgar captions. When these were detected, the student was dismissed from the college and the pictures were removed from the social media page. The affected students and the college refrained from complaining to the Police to "safeguard their reputation".

In another instance, a male member of a software company proposed his love to his lady colleague, who rejected him. In revenge, the male colleague uploaded photographs of her



on various porno sites, with her mobile phone number. She was displayed as a call girl, available for service. The lady colleague experienced acute embarrassment and agony because of his vengeful act.

Many of the millions of daughters of India, who are harassed on a daily basis, suffer in silence. Many of them do not go to the Police, and instead tolerate the harassment as their "fate".

Section 66A of Information Technology (IT) Act 2000

In 2009, the Government of India inserted Section 66A in the Information Technology Act 2000, empowering the Judiciary to punish a person with imprisonment up to three years for any grossly offensive and menacing messages. Unfortunately, in a "twist in the tale" episode, a lady law student challenged this Sec 66A as unconstitutional because this section was misused by the police in one of the states to arrest innocent persons who posted critical comments about social and political issues and political leaders on social networking sites. The Supreme Court thus struck this section down, saying such a law "hit at the root of liberty and freedom of expression, the two cardinal pillars of democracy".

The entire media in India, including several women organisations celebrated this decision as winning their newfound 'freedom of expression'. Many others, who were less optimistic about the wisdom of this reversal, remained silent. The Cyber Society of India however, had expressed openly in the media that striking down Sec 66A might open threatening challenges for women in the future, compelling them to ask for re-introduction of this provision.

Expert Views

S. N. Ravichandran of Cyber Society of India says that the right of redressal has been sacrificed at the altar, for the sake of the right of speech and expression. He adds that at the time of the judgement, he had appealed to the women journalists and women activists to oppose the judgement. None of them seemed to realise the implications then.

Sonia Arun Kumar, a popular Digital Journalist says the Government should restore the Section 66A to protect the women victims.

Dr. Debarati Halder, advocate and cyber crime victim counsellor, says that Sec 66A was a good law that was unfortunately misused and abused. She feels that the existing laws are not adequate to address the many forms of cyber offences, even though some of them can be tackled through IPC.

S. Balu, Additional Superintendent of Police (Retired), who investigated a similar case of harassment on cyber space and won the first conviction in India under IT Act, says that the Police feels handicapped to take action against the offender due to the absence of the Section 66A. There are many laws in India that are being misused on a daily basis in many parts of India. Striking down those laws is not a solution. The Court could have directed the Government to frame rules to prevent misuse, instead of striking down the section.

Balu quoted a case of the recent conviction of a software engineer, who indulged in Cyber Stalking before the introduction of 66A. He was convicted by the Court under Sec 67 of IT Act (punishment for publishing obscene material in the electronic form) and Sec 509 of IPC (uttering any word or making any gesture to insult the modesty of a woman). However he



feels that 509 IPC which was framed in 1860 does not take into consideration the activities in cyber space. "The new situation warrants a new law", he adds.

Naavi, Founder of the online Cyber Law College and the author of the first book on Cyber Law in India also agrees that Sec 66A should not have been struck down, exposing the Indian women to greater risk. He pleads that a new section be brought to replace Sec 66A. He wants the media and the woman organisations to take up the matter with the Government.

What Victims Should Do?

Before filing a police complaint, the women, harassed through the mobile phone, Facebook, Twitter or any social medium, can first warn the culprit of dire legal consequences. In 90% of the cases, the culprits will not trouble the victim thereafter.

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If the culprit pursues with the harassment, the victim can file a police complaint, providing evidence of the harassment. If the Police does not respond, the victim can pursue through women social organisations. They can also approach the courts to issue directives to the Police for action.

In the case of harassments turning serious, the victims should also approach the National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women for redressal of their grievance.

Why Protection to Women?

Ravichandran feels that women should understand that their protection begins by taking care of themselves first. It does not make sense to talk of gender equality and then seek safety and special protection in the same breath. However Sonia, representing the current youth, feels that with the growth of technology and employment opportunity, women are not confined indoors and are exposed to the risks of encountering perverts in the society. While the Constitution provides equality to all, we as a society, must provide social justice and protection to the vulnerable sections of the society. The women community is one such vulnerable section of the society which needs to be protected by the responsible society, from miscreants. These women are the daughters and sisters of the society. Sonia feels that all elders in the family and the community should counsel the boys and sensitise them towards treating women, irrespective of their age and social background, with respect and dignity, as they hopefully, would treat their own sisters.

Though the elders may sound conservative, the hidden concern cannot be ignored. While every effort has to be made to make the law tighter, we should understand that the law in the statute books alone cannot resolve this issue. The individual and the social system should develop inherent strength to face and deal with the challenges.

By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, with Sukruti Vadula Narayanan, Editorial Team Member



Special Story

Panama Papers

Corruption in India is a major issue that has been adversely affecting its economy. The alleged causes of corruption in India include excessive regulations, complicated taxes and licensing systems, lack of transparent laws and processes, and much more.



Many of the biggest scandals since 2010 have involved government officials at very high levels, right up to the Cabinet level at the State and Union levels. Indians have been exposed to the 2G Spectrum Scam (₹1.7 lakh crore, ie. US\$25 billion), the 2010 Commonwealth Games scam (₹70000 crore, ie. US\$10 billion) and the Coal Mining Scam (₹1.86 lakh crore, ie. US\$28 billion). All these seem petty when we

compare with the latest discovery of the Panama Papers. This has become the current hot topic of the world today.

What Is The Panama Papers?

The Panama Papers reveals a humongous 2.6 Terabytes of private data of the Panama-based law firm, Mossack Fonseca. This data contains 11.5 Megabytes of secret files, 4,804,618 e-mails of 2,14,488 companies. Mossack Fonseca is the world's fourth biggest offshore law firm.

What Is In This Data?

The data called the Panama Papers brought to light information about the hidden wealth of prominent global leaders, business tycoons, celebrities and billionaires from 200 countries and territories across the globe. Mossack Fonseca worked with over 14,000 banks, law firms, company incorporators and trusts to service its customers.

Source Of The Leak:

The secret records were obtained from an anonymous source by the German newspaper, Süddeutsche Zeitung and shared by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists with the British national daily newspaper, The Guardian and the British broadcaster, The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The Guardian, working with global partners, includes journalists from more than 80 countries. The inevitable leak happened.

Why Offshore Companies?

In over 20 years of investigations into corruption and financial crime, the British activist group, Global Witness has repeatedly shown how the secrecy that offshore tax havens for investment allows corrupt officials to steal from their people and stack away abroad. This kind of corruption props up abusive regimes, keeps developing economies dependent on overseas aid, and fuels instability and extremism. It is also bad for the global economy.



Floating a foreign company and registering it by going all the way to Panama is because of the reason that such jurisdictions as the British Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Seychelles and Panama offer the following incentives:

- Secrecy of information relating to the ultimate beneficiary owner.
- Zero tax on income generated.

The People Involved:

Nearly 140 politicians from more than 50 countries, 29 billionaires featured in Forbes Magazine's list of the world's 500 richest people and the world leaders who have embraced anti-corruption platforms feature in the leaked documents. Names of around 500 Indians also figure in the papers. They have allegedly dealt with Mossack Fonesca, the Panama-based law firm for opening offshore companies and stashing away wealth.

Names of around 500 Indians also figure in the papers who have allegedly dealt with Mossack Fonesca, the Panama-based law firm in opening an offshore company and stashing away wealth.

Legal Position in India:

In India, for a long time, the convertibility of rupees was not allowed. It was only in February 2004 that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the "Liberalised Remittance Scheme" (LRS) for the first time, permitting an individual to remit up to \$25,000 a year outside India for purposes like medical treatment, education, gift, donation, buying shares, etc. The limit is now enhanced to \$250,000.

In 2010, RBI clearly stated under the section "FAQs" of its website that LRS allowed buying of shares but specifically prohibited setting up of companies abroad by individuals. Some took the technical view that "acquiring companies was not the same as setting up companies".

In 2013, RBI allowed resident Indians to invest directly in joint Ventures (JV's) and overseas subsidiaries through Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) Remittance Scheme.

According to the framework of law under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), individuals who set up companies overseas prior to August 2013 would have technically violated the rules under LRS. It could also imply violation under FEMA, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Black Money and Imposition of Tax Act, Prevention of Corruption Act, Income Tax Act, etc.

The Outcome:

The Investigation shows the ease with which secretly owned companies could act as gateways for terrorists, dictators, money launderers and tax evaders all over the world to park their ill-gotten wealth outside the tax net of the country's law enforcement authorities.

By Sukruti Vadula Narayanan, Editorial Team



Ignited Minds

Brave Stories of Acid Attack Victims

Sheroes Hangout Cafe



In Agra, close to India's own wonder of the world, the Taj Mahal, a nondescript café 'Sheroes Hangout' welcomes tourists into its cramped interiors. Neetu Mahour (23) sits behind the counter, keeping a close watch on the proceedings. She has for company her mother Geeta (42), who works in the café's kitchen on the first floor. Ritu Saini, the nineteen-year-old floor manager, hovers nearby, ready to seat any incoming patrons and take orders. Ritu also handles the accounts and what meagre earnings the café brings in.

The café itself sports an unhurried nonchalance, its ambience peppered by bamboo furniture as Bollywood jingles waft through the frugal setup. Graffiti in indigo and green, portraying a dreamy-eyed woman, completes the visual collage. Curiously, in one corner, a large pin board is decked up with mobiles, makeup and *chowmein*. A mini boutique hosts clothes designed by twenty-two-year-old Rupa, who hails from Muzaffarnagar.

Acid Attack Victims

As patrons come in, the women get busy. For, this is no ordinary café. It is the Sheroes Café run by Alok Dixit, the founder of the Delhi-based non-profit organisation Stop Acid Attacks (SAA). All the women working in the café are victims of heinous acid attacks by lovers, family, or relatives. Founded in 2013, SAA itself was inspired by a beauty parlour in Pakistan run by acid attack survivors.



Acid attacks differ from the other equally barbaric types of crime in one fundamental way. They distort the most visible and recognizable part of the victim's identity—her face. A person's face is easily his or her most loved and most obsessed over physical feature.

When an acid attack disfigures this most loved feature, the victim loses her sense of self. She breaks within. What does she go back to when she sees herself in the mirror at the end of the day? A rude reflection that has become a cruel joke played on her by some pervert. This joke gets played over again and again when people gawk at her, comment on her disfigured face, undermine her being. The victim then tends to go into a shell and withdraw, both literally and psychologically, from society.



Sheroes Girls - L to R - Ritu, Neetu, Doly, Rupa and Geeta

Story of Ritu

It is to bring about an attitudinal change in the victims, and change the way society looks at them that Sheroes Café was conceptualised by Dixit. Says Dixit, "We show them that nothing is wrong with them." The trick has worked. The questions in their minds have shifted from "why" to "why not". Says Ritu, who was attacked by her cousin for rejecting his romantic advances and lost her left eye after undergoing ten reconstructive surgeries, "Before Sheroes, I used to cover my face. I wanted to know why he did this to me. Now, I am busy. I am forgetting. I don't care to know why he did it." On the contrary, Ritu, a former state-level volleyball player, has mustered enough courage to ask herself why not be visible in public and walk with her head held high.

The Story of Rupa

Before Sheroes, Rupa had been the target of a broken marriage and an acid attack by her stepmother. She wanted to be a school teacher but was rejected since parents were concerned that she might spook their children. Once she joined the SAA-backed café, there has been no looking back. Gushes Rupa, "This place is my family and support now. I don't



miss home. Here, we have the opportunity to fulfil our aspirations.” Excellent at stitching, she dreams of becoming a fashion designer. Neetu and Geeta too affirm that the café is a harbinger of hope for them, a second chance at life.

Sheroes is a Rehabilitation Project

But to earn a livelihood, the café needs to be competitive and make profits. After all, helping acid attack victims stand on their own is one of the objectives of SAA. Dixit disagrees, saying that they need not compete with bigger cafes or coffee chains for business. The SAA founder emphasises, “Competition is among equals and Sheroes is not a business project. It is more a means to rehabilitate these survivors.”

Still, the café has been a resounding success in its own right. It attracted more than 5000 customers in its first six months alone, reflecting a changing mindset of the society not only towards acid attack victims but also towards the crime itself. Reforms in 2013 to IPC sections related to such attacks made them a separate offence punishable with terms up to ten years in prison. More than 300 cases of acid attack were reported in 2014. The state government of Uttar Pradesh has promised to extend help in locating land for a bigger and better café.



Sheroes has attracted international attention as well, with foreign tourists taking back their experience with them and sharing with like-minded Samaritans. SAA now plans to open similar cafes in Kanpur, Ludhiana, and Meerut. Almost synonymous with an awakening to the plight of acid attack victims, the movement birthed by SAA is spreading.

Acid attack victims in India might have lost one face forever. But they have found another in SAA and Sheroes.

Their Website

<http://www.sheroeshangout.com>

By Kavipriya, Editorial Team Member





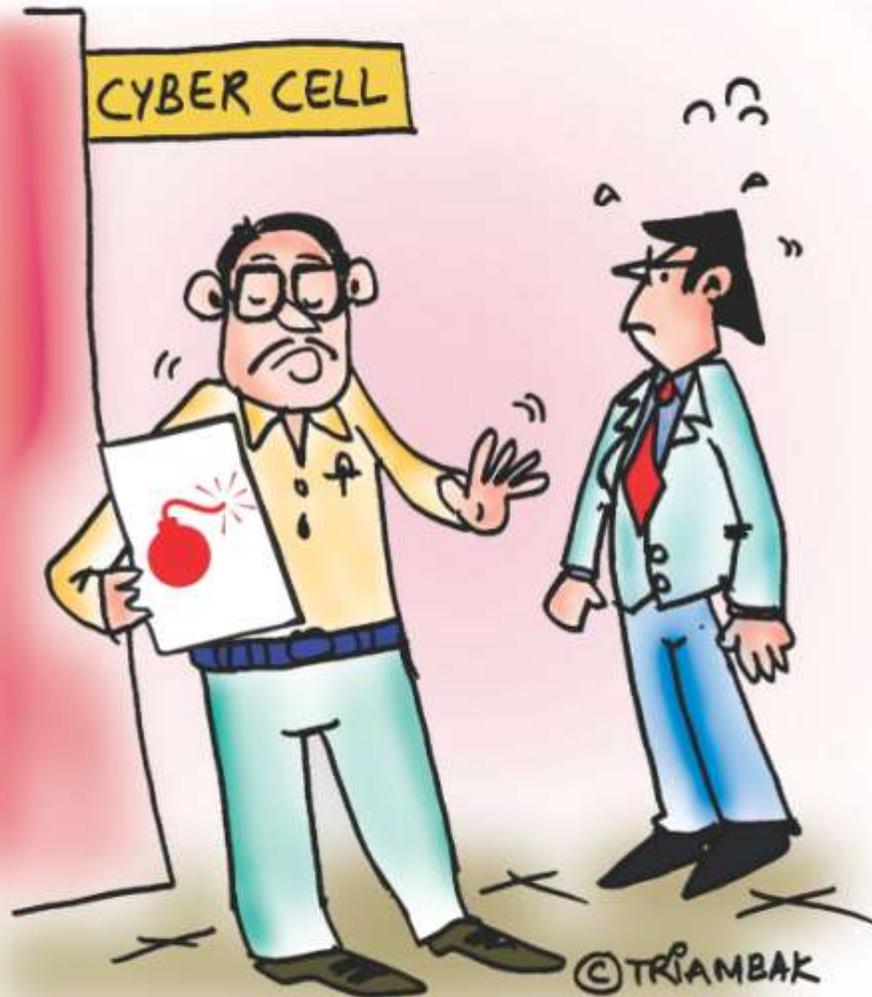
PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



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**THE ONLY WAY FOR SAFETY OF WOMEN
IN CYBER SPACE IS TO ADOPT
THIS STYLE FOR PROFILE PICTURE ...**



From The Archives - April 2010

Exclusive Interview with Dr Abdul Kalam

Exclusive interview with Dr A P J Abdul Kalam (Former President of India)

In an exclusive interview to with K. Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief, PreSense, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India speaks on the various contemporary issues faced by youngsters. Excerpts:



Q: In this technology-driven global village, everything is looked at from RoI (Return on Investment) angle. Packaging is the name of the game. We see the consistent degeneration in value system. The present education system produces only graduates and not human beings. What, according to you, should be done to bring the values back and live for pride?

A: Parents and teachers have to set an example of the value system. Schools can conduct moral science classes at least once in a week to talk about great personalities who have demonstrated good values to the society. The school curriculum should include selfless societal work such as teaching the needy, planting trees, caring for the old, orphans and differently abled. These actions will promote values in the minds of the young.

Q: Talking on unsung heroes - the media - across the canvass - has become a product. Ipso facto, the thrust is on selling only. This being the case, the `unsung heroes' will forever be confined to oblivion. How do we remedy the situation?

A: Organisations like yours should initiate action to remedy this situation.



Interview with Dr Abdul Kalam (continued)

Q: We do not have the type of political leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Rajaji, Nehru, Kamaraj and Sardar Patel. Youngsters get easily frustrated with the political system and many do not even participate in the election process. What do you think should be done to make youngsters participate in the political process and bring about a transformation in the current situation?

A: The major parties should recruit educated youth with a passion for societal work in the party structure. These members must be put through special training on developing unity of minds and development politics. They will be leaders who will make India a land of prosperity with value system.

Q: After graduation, many want to go for jobs. They are more driven by the immediate money and perks provided by companies. They do not want to become entrepreneurs. How can they be inspired to become 'employment generators' rather than just 'employment seekers'?

A: It is not true. When I addressed the participants of the Confluence Seminar at IIM Ahmedabad, I asked the question, "how many of you would like to become an entrepreneur?". Almost 75% of the audience responded in a loud affirmative. The trend is changing. We have to make the system and procedures simple and user friendly for an entrepreneur to flourish.

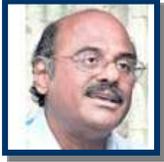
Q: A personal question. Politics and bureaucracy are generally perceived as the most corrupt fields in our country. You were working in this system very closely for many decades. In spite of your proximity to the system, you have remained 'above board' and many youngsters regard you a 'role model'. What makes people like you - straight forward and honest ones at that - survive and come out unscathed?

A: Maintained the principle "work with integrity, and succeed with integrity". Do not be worried about others. You follow, what your conscience says.



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