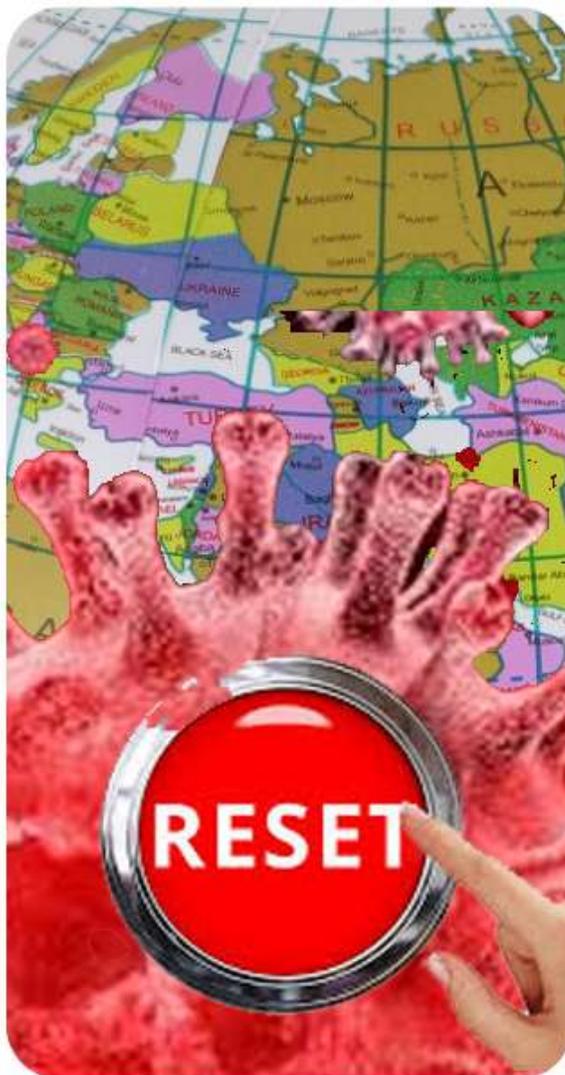


PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations
Issue No 158 – April 2020
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Cover Story of the Month



Challenges and Opportunities

In This Issue

- P3 Editorial:
Suspension of
MPLADs**
- P4 Cover Story I:
A PreSense Survey**
- P6 Cover Story II:
India's MSME
Sector**
- P9 Cover Story III:
Issue of Chronic
Addiction**
- P11 Cover Story IV –
Research in
Science &
Technology**
- P13 Princeton**
- P14 National:
Performance of
Parliament in
Budget Session**

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From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief

Greetings from all of us @ The Editorial Team to all our readers.



Yes, the war is still going on! The fight against the invisible enemy continues. Unlike the World Wars, the entire world of nations is together in this war. Let us fight through caution, hygiene, quarantine and lockdown towards victory and eradication of the virus.

PreSense conducted a quick online survey to understand the pulse of a sample section of the public about the crisis and the future, post lockdown. The findings form the first part of the Cover Story which is divided into four parts. It also includes opinions and recommendations of experts about the way forward for the country, in the areas of industry, research and health. Don't miss the snippet about the first discovery of the Corona Virus over half a century ago!

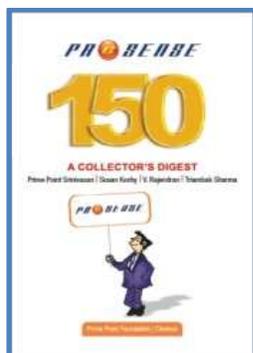
With the premature conclusion of the Budget Session of the Parliament, we have brought out a report on the performance of the two Houses and its MPs. We have shortlisted the top performers and the results come as no surprise.

While we wait in uncertainty as well as hope for the current crisis to blow over, let us do our part by cooperating with the authorities and helping our fellow citizens wherever, whenever and in whatever way we can. Remember to stay safe and well.

In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy this edition. Please share your feedback with us at editor@corpezine.com. Your feedback is important to us.

Susan

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Editorial

Suspension of MPLads Will Affect Rural People – An Appeal to the Government to Reconsider Decision

Recently, the Indian Government decided to implement a 30% salary cut for all Members of Parliament (MPs), and also to suspend MPLads (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) for two years. Through suspension of MPLads, the Government of India would get Rs.7900 crores. While the Opposition parties have welcomed the salary cut for MPs, they have objected to the suspension of MPLads.

Coronavirus fight: Cabinet passes ordinance to suspend MPLADS fund till 2022

Union minister Prakash Javadekar said the fund from MPLADS scheme will go to Consolidated Fund of India to address the challenges in fight against COVID-19.
 @PrakashJavadekar | @Aardram | @MinistryOfHealth | @MinistryOfHealth | @MinistryOfHealth

Since many people are not aware of how MPLads works, there are few discussions about it in the mainline media. Some intellectuals have welcomed the Government's move without understanding the concept, due to their misconception about politics and politicians.

Many people are under the wrong impression that the MPs are given Rs.5 crores cash for their expenditure. As per the guidelines of MPLads, the Lok Sabha MPs can utilise the amount only for their parliamentary constituency. The Rajya Sabha MPs can use the funds for the state from where they are elected. The MPs cannot directly spend the money themselves. They can only recommend approved projects to the District Collector / District Magistrate for creation of capital assets against the allocation from MPLads. The District Authorities will implement the projects and claim funds from the Central Government allotment.

Generally, the MPs recommend projects for the construction of toilets, buildings, and water tanks in schools and hospitals owned by the Government. They can also recommend the purchase of ambulances and medical equipment for the government hospitals within their constituency. They can allocate the funds for providing equipment to physically disabled persons. Even link roads connecting villages can be built using this fund. Community centres can be built to benefit cluster villages. By and large, MPLads has so far benefitted the rural people.

In order to gain the goodwill of the public, MPs would follow up with the district officials for speedy implementation of the projects recommended by them. It would be difficult for the District Collector or the State Governments concerned to execute such projects without MPLads or MLALads funds.

Suspension of MPLads for two years will definitely slow down development projects in the rural areas. Besides a slowdown for at least two years in the post lockdown era, this move would further deprive them of development projects for another two years.

Instead of suspending the entire 10 crores (for two years), the Government of India could have taken Rupees one or two crores per year for the health projects, and permitted the utilisation of the balance amount by the MPs for constituency-specific health and education related projects. The existing guidelines could have been modified accordingly for this purpose.

PreSense appeals to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to reconsider this decision.

by K. Srinivasan, Publisher and Managing Editor



Cover Story – I

Money and Position are Nothing Before Nature – A PreSense Survey



In a quick online sample survey conducted by PreSense in the last week of April 2020, 100 respondents who participated, indicated that money and position have no value before the fury of Nature. PreSense collected views from a cross section of people from different states, age groups, professions and genders.

Nearly 80% of the respondents felt that the total lockdown has helped contain the spread of Covid-19. The respondents have been generally appreciative of the discipline maintained by the people by staying at home, barring a few instances.

They were also appreciative of the medical staff, conservancy staff and the police for their dedicated work across India.

There was a sense of hostility among the respondents against China for this current state of affairs. Many of them were hopeful that India would attract more investments in the future because of the global attitude towards China.

More than 60% of the respondents felt that small and micro enterprises and the small business segment, including daily wage earners, would be adversely affected, followed by the service sector, agriculture and major industries.

Some of the main observations by the respondents are enlisted below:

Lessons Learnt by Respondents

- Health consciousness of the people increased. Hygiene and cleanliness of the environment improved.
- Public unity during crisis time – prepared to face an emergency.
- Digital use for normal transactions.
- Acknowledgement that Nature is supreme. Money and position have no priority over Nature.
- Forgotten ancient Indian medical systems are being revived for better health.

Suggestions by Respondents

- Provide support to small businesses and small enterprises, with subsidy and low interest rates on bank loans.
- Reduce GST on some essential items.
- Toll charges not to be collected for one year. (The Government has increased the toll charges during the lockdown period, and this has drawn much criticism).



- Encourage 'Make in India' and 'Buy in India'.
- Increase funding to the health sector and for medical research.
- Cut down unnecessary Government expenditure.
- Respect Nature and Mother Earth. Do not tamper with them for monetary gains.

Opportunities as Foreseen by Respondents

- Lockdown helping 'self-realisation'.
- Economic opportunity for India due to possible migration of investment from China.
- Strengthening Research and Development in an aggressive manner.
- Improving the digital use and technology, including e-commerce, online teaching, online film launch, etc.
- Promoting Indian health care systems like Ayurveda and Siddha.
- Increasing India's manufacturing capabilities.

Our Recommendations

Despite the inconveniences, there was optimism in the minds of the respondents that India will overcome this challenge and emerge as a strong nation. Even in the past, every challenge faced by India has made the nation stronger. This Corona challenge has 're-set' the entire global system, including India's.

The PreSense Team also discussed with experts about the observations of the respondents. While they all generally agreed that the Coronavirus crisis has opened up new opportunities, they felt that the Government of India and the State Governments should have proper plans in place and utilise this opportunity to increase investments in India, based on the global goodwill earned. India can emerge as an alternate manufacturing hub to China.

Presently, India is not spending enough on Research and Development. With the support of world class institutions like IIT, IIM and IISc, the Government can encourage more research and innovation.

After the lockdown, India will face serious economic impacts. Small vendors and SMEs (Small and Micro Enterprises) will face serious issues. It may lead to retrenchment and closure of some units. There is a perception among the people that the Central Government has not been handling the economy of the country effectively in the last four years. The Government should set up an 'experts committee' with people who have the knowledge and experience in handling such critical situations. Prime Minister has shown good leadership during this crisis. PreSense hopes that he will continue to show his leadership in managing the post Covid-19 economic situation smoothly.

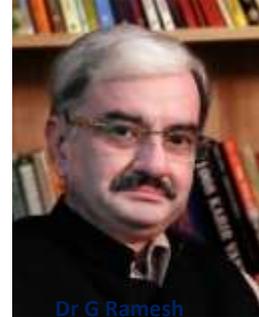
**by K. Srinivasan, Publisher and Managing Editor,
with G Priyadharshni, Deputy Editor**



Cover Story – II

India's MSME Sector – Scope and Opportunities

Based on a survey conducted by PreSense, the Editorial Team sought the views of Dr G Ramesh, Professor, Center for Public Policy at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. He is also the former Indian Economic Service officer of the Government of India. Prof Ramesh shared his views on how the economy can bounce back to normalcy, utilising the global opportunity in favour of India. Excerpts:



Dr G Ramesh

Dr G Ramesh

Q1. How do you see the situation, especially in the case of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, which are most vulnerable to the current pandemic crisis?

Dr Ramesh: The severity of the crisis is yet to sink in, for many people. The economic impact of the current crisis is expected to continue till at least March 2021.

The industry must make its own survival plans without depending solely on Government support for the time being. Any Government support that might come in, will then be a bonus.

In the case of the micro and tiny industries, while they may be vulnerable, they are a resilient lot and are expected to get back in business soon, as it is a matter of their livelihood and supporting/maintaining their families. They can revive with some support. On the contrary, it is the large industries, eg. airlines and hotels, that are vulnerable to economic shocks and face the threat of closure.

Q2. How can the Government help them tide over the situation, post lockdown?

Dr Ramesh: For the MSMEs, the Government can identify companies that are operational (non-NPAs) with less than 50 employees on their payroll. These can be supported with other conditions/compliances like maintaining regulatory contribution to Provident Fund (PF)/ Employees' State Insurance (ESI). The Government can consider providing 50% of the salary of workers for a quarter year. This may cost around Rs.10,000 crore to the Government. This meagre yet critical support will prevent small enterprises from closing down or laying off workers.

Q3. The current crisis is a challenge for India as a country and its economy. Every challenge provides an opportunity. What are the opportunities you foresee for the Indian economy, post Corona crisis?

Dr Ramesh: It is expected that multinational companies that currently have their units in China, will look towards India as the 'alternate manufacturing centre/hub' for their future expansion plans, especially in the electronics, automobiles and engineering equipment manufacturing sectors. India must proactively seize this opportunity as the Far East will be its potential competitor.

India can become the centre for dual sourcing, apart from China. However, the Government needs to seize this opportunity by being proactive and come up with suitable



financial packages, and faster and liberal regulatory clearances. The Indian industry is not looking for charity, only long-term financing support and facilitation of ease of doing business, from the Government.

In this environment, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is expected to flow in and it is hoped that the benefit will trickle down to the MSME of up to Rs.100 crore capacity. The Government must identify about 1 lakh small MSME units in the range of Rs.50 to Rs.100 crore capacity, and explore how to help them scale to Rs.500 crores with financial and regulatory support.

Q4. The companies are currently facing liquidity crisis and are unable to even pay the salaries. How can they deal with this situation?

Dr Ramesh: These firms have the option of retrenching, or retaining their workers with a temporary pay cut. These firms would anyway need these workers for the future. It would be more expensive to recruit afresh on a future date and train them. I would recommend that the management of these companies, in consultation with the workforce and their labour unions, go for a 30% pay cut but retain all their employees. These employees can be retained on the bench if not on the production line for the time being, may be for this financial year. This would be the intelligent move for the survival of the firm as well as the employees, and will have less negative impact on the economy. During this critical time, both management and workforce should come forward to share and survive with the existing resources, with some small sacrifices.

The companies should primarily focus on sustaining at break-even point at least (50-70%) for their survival. Targeting beyond that and expecting the government to support them would be just greed.

The Central and State Governments can extend temporary support to these companies to tide over the cash flow crisis. Overdrafts (ODs) in the form of convertible Term Loans can be advanced to them. With the recent easing of liquidity in the market by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks should be interested in advancing the unutilised funds available with them. This would be preferable to banks than funding new loans.

The Government should ensure that the agriculture sector is sustained across the entire supply chain from the farm, through the warehouse to the market. This will ensure at least a 2% growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). On an optimistic scale, the country's GDP is expected to grow upto 4% by mid-2021 which will be the good old Hindu growth rate. (*Note: The Hindu rate of growth is a term referring to the low annual growth rate of the economy of India before the liberalisations of 1991. The term was coined by Professor Rajkrishna, an Indian economist, in 1978*).

Q5. How do you see India and its economy in the next couple of years?

Dr Ramesh: With the world not sure about what is currently happening in China because of lack of clarity in its communication with the world even on the economic front, we can see the opportunity for India to become the 'alternate global manufacturing centre'. (India is already a global centre in the service sector). As the alternate manufacturing source, India can target even a 10% growth in three years' time. Aggregators like Tier 1 and Tier 2 intermediary manufacturers can play a major role.

The Government has a major role to play in enabling this environment. It needs to set up a committee of experts to discuss and chalk out policies and strategies. These experts should



be current serving top professionals who have hands-on knowledge and experience, eg. CEO of Flipkart, Anand Mahindra, or Venu Srinivasan etc. They have their units globally including China and their experience and network will be valuable in creating the ecosystem for a global manufacturing hub.

Similarly, the hospital equipment sector should aim to go global in health care equipment and implants like stents, ortho implants, graft instruments, test kits, etc. We are already global leaders in the manufacture of pharmaceutical formulations as borne out by the current pandemic.

India has excellent potential to occupy the vacuum. The question is – do the Government, industrialists, entrepreneurs, investors, technologists and innovators have the vision and appetite for it?

by Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief in conversation with Prof G Ramesh, IIMB

Coronavirus First Discovered by School Dropout Virologist, Dr June Almeida 56 Years Ago



Dr June Almeida with her Electron Microscope.
Inset: Image of Coronavirus as seen under her electron microscope in 1964. (Image Courtesy: www.thescottishsun.co.uk)

The novel Coronavirus which has overtaken the world in a pandemic attack in late 2019, was first identified by Dr June Almeida (born in 1930) while she worked in a hospital in UK with a researcher, Dr David Tyrell.

In 1964, one particular specimen of a virus, then known as B814, was sent to Dr Almeida for examination under her electron microscope. (*An electron microscope uses electrons to create an image of the target. It has much higher magnification or resolving power than a normal light microscope.*) She described the virus in the sample as resembling influenza viruses but not quite the same. She thus identified the first human Coronavirus.

Unfortunately, her paper on her discovery, to a peer-reviewed journal was rejected as just "bad pictures of influenza virus particles".

Dr Almeida died in 2007. Today, 57 years after her first discovery of the deadly virus, Dr Almeida is remembered and recognised for her pioneering work in understanding the virus.



Cover Story – III

Government and Corporates Must Help Address Issue of Chronic Addiction of Ten Crore Indians, Post Lockdown

In the course of examining the responses to the survey conducted by PreSense to study the impact of the Coronavirus lockdown in India, the PreSense Team sought the expert opinion of Dr A V Srinivasan, internationally renowned neurologist, on the social and health impact of the lockdown on addictions, and how to implement de-addiction programmes.

The Role of the Government and Society in De-Addiction Programmes

According to Dr Srinivasan, nearly ten crore (100 million) Indians (based on a study by All India Institute of Medical Sciences) are chronically addicted especially to alcohol, tobacco and drugs, and need the immediate attention of the Government, and corporates through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), to address the psychosocial national issue. With the non-availability of the substances during the lockdown, many people may emerge as chronic addicts symptomatically. In the case of the low-middle and poor sections of the society, ignorance and lack of comfort drive many to addiction. It is the duty and responsibility of the Government to train and depute social workers to the villages which are the soul of India, to educate the people and create awareness among them about the health and social risks of such addictions. Grassroot level Primary Health Centres are the Centres of Excellence for imparting such awareness right from the villages up to the cities. The Government, and corporates through their CSR efforts, must address this area once the lockdown and pandemic crisis is over. This is a psychosocial issue that must be addressed for a healthy and socially responsible society both at the village and urban levels.



Dr A V Srinivasan

As it is important to identify the people who are addicted to the substances, Dr Srinivasan explained the signs and symptoms of these addictions during the lockdown due to non-availability of alcohol and tobacco, and how to deal with the addiction post lockdown.

Alcoholism

The factors that affect alcoholics when deprived of alcohol (as is prevalent during the current lockdown period) are Stress, Anxiety and Depression (SAD). It is significant to note that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has strongly advised against drinking alcohol during the Coronavirus pandemic as it adversely affects the immunity system so that the body is more prone to the Coronavirus infection.

There are 8 signs by which alcoholism can be detected. Many are even unaware of their own alcohol-dependency or in their family and among friends. The alcoholic:

1. avoids taking responsibility for his own condition,
2. is unconcerned about others,
3. drinks to cope with stress,
4. is confused and irritable,
5. is aggressive and violent,



6. tends to drink alone (not just social drinking),
7. consumes gradually increasing quantity of alcohol, due to 'tolerance building', (*Initially, the hormone dopamine, which is responsible for the 'kick' sensation, is released with the first drink. In alcoholics, it requires an increased number of drinks for release of dopamine to experience the 'kick'.*)
8. exhibits impulsive and uncontrolled behaviour, and is unconcerned about its consequence.

One must seek professional help while dealing with the addiction. During de-addiction, the alcoholic could experience severe withdrawal symptoms like tremors, seizures and erratic behaviour. Professional help is critical in dealing with these conditions and nursing the alcoholic to recovery.

Smoking Tobacco

With the non-availability of tobacco on sale during the current lockdown, addicted smokers can experience an acute craving for a cigarette. If the abstinence continues, the craving peaks and the cigarette addict could display such symptoms as anxiety, anger, headache, constipation, smoker's hacker cough, depression, decreased heart rate, insomnia and fatigue.

Dr Srinivasan recommends the 'STAR' programme as an effective strategy to quit smoking:

Set a 'quit smoking' date,

Tell family and friends about the resolution so that they are supportive in the effort,

Anticipate and plan for challenges that the quitter is bound to face during the abstinence,

Remove all tobacco products from reach.

During this programme, it is important to consult a doctor for professional help.

In addition,

- think positively.
- maintain a healthy and planned diet. It has been observed that smoking is enjoyable after a non-vegetarian diet. A diet containing fruits, vegetables and cheese leaves an unpleasant taste when smoking a cigarette. Similarly, smoking is enjoyable after a fizz drink, coffee or tea, and therefore such liquids should be avoided. Water or fruit juices, especially tomato juice, leaves an unpleasant taste during cigarette smoking.
- avoid those places that are frequented for a smoke as they act as triggers for craving.
- In case of craving, apply the 5-minute counteraction – exercising, moving with healthy and positively inclined people, and diverting attention away from the craving.



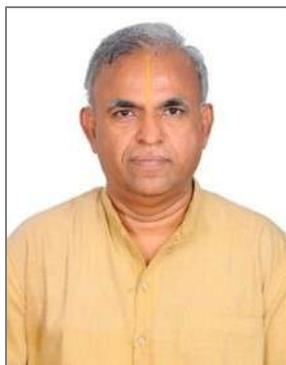
It takes personal resolve and will power, to stop any addiction. The Government and its people have the moral responsibility to redeem the society from the social harm of substance abuse and addiction.

**by K.Srinivasan, Publisher & Managing Editor, and Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief,
in conversation with Dr Srinivasan, Neurologist**



Cover Story – IV

Encourage High Stakes, Short-Duration Research in Critical Areas of Science and Technology in the Wake of the Corona Challenge



Dr Dhamodharan

Taking a cue from the survey conducted by PreSense, the Editorial Team sought the expert opinion of Dr R Dhamodharan, Professor, Department of Chemistry with the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM). Dr Dhamodharan shared his views on how the knowledge of researchers in India can be utilised through collaboration with potential companies within the country and abroad for the manufacture of health-related products. He also explained how our own scientists and researchers, who are of global standard, can be motivated to develop new findings that will benefit the country in the future, even if we have missed the bus in the past. Excerpts:

Q1. We have seen India emerging successfully in the past from challenging situations. In the current pandemic crisis situation, how can India tap the opportunity to emerge at the forefront from this challenge, say in Science & Technology?

Dr Dhamodharan: We have the knowledge base in India for the development of state-of-the-art products in the field of Science & Technology. We need the know-how and an organic system consisting of knowledge and need coming together to put it into production for the market. For this, India must look at collaboration with potential manufacturers who have been successful in the field. Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Germany and Austria have shown a fair amount of success in dealing with the pandemic situation and controlling the spread.

In India, nearly three decades back, we had the knowledge to develop Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Rapid Antibody Test, which are key in detecting infected people. However, the Government then was neither impressed with the scope to develop that knowledge for the production of PCR and Rapid Antibody Test (*aka* Rapid Diagnostic Test or RDT) nor had the finance to allow the import of restriction enzymes. Today, countries like Canada and USA that focus on research have emerged as key producers of PCR and RDT kits to cater to their entire population while India has lagged behind with insufficient number of kits to cater to its own population. (*Note: PCR is a fast and inexpensive technique used to amplify or copy small segments of DNA. While trace amounts of a sample of DNA are necessary for molecular and genetic analyses, and the study of isolated pieces of DNA is nearly impossible without PCR amplification. PCR is valuable in a number of laboratory and clinical techniques, including DNA fingerprinting, detection of bacteria or viruses and diagnosis of genetic disorders.*)

The present generation of scientists and researchers should be challenged to explore new innovations in the field of science and technology through a novel means of throwing up a national high-stakes challenge with attractive awards. It must be of short duration with demonstrable results. It is preferable that the existing institutional mechanism is kept away from this alternate model while continuing to do what is good. The alternative model would



motivate capable people with a daredevil attitude to take up the challenge and deliver successful results. The Government must also promote/encourage collaboration with potential manufacturers to develop the knowledge brought out by these researchers, for large-scale manufacture for the benefit of the country and the global market. For example, Germany has recently concluded a national challenge and at least twenty products including a more simplistic ventilator, are likely to be produced on a mass scale within the next few months.

Here in India, the practitioners and researchers of Siddha, Ayurveda and other alternatives to allopathic medicine have been claiming remedies for the Coronavirus. If patient-volunteers are willing to undergo these alternate treatments as a substitute to allopathic treatment, they must be enabled as we would be missing out on the opportunity provided by the critical moment to test these methods. The results from such studies would be useful in dealing with critical health challenges that we might encounter in the future. These researchers can be challenged with attractive incentives, to prove their claims with trials as is being done by the Oxford University in UK. Such incentives and motivations will drive Indian researchers who are comparable with world class scientists, to come out with positive findings and solutions.

The present generation of scientists and researchers should be challenged to explore new innovations in the field of science and technology through a novel means of throwing up a national high-stakes challenge with attractive awards.

Q2: How can industry and research institutions collaborate?

Dr Dhamodharan: This Corona crisis has opened up a lot of opportunities for researchers in all domains. Currently, the coordination between the industry and the research institutions is much less organic than it ought to be. Industries like health, telecom, automobile and information technology should use research institutions like IITs and IISc to develop the research in their respective domains to suit public needs. This will help India to manufacture devices and equipment using indigenous technology, without depending on imports from other countries. We could use private funding and more accountable research in critical areas in areas where we depend on foreign countries.

by Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief, in conversation with Prof Dhamodharan, IITM



NGPL to Introduce Online Certificate Course

Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL), one of the initiatives of eMagazine PreSense, will launch an online Certificate Course on "Polity, Governance and Politics".

Eminent and experienced political leaders, bureaucrats and professionals will take online sessions. A Board of Studies headed by Shri T S Krishnamurthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, will finalise the curriculum.

This Certificate course will be useful for young political aspirants and leaders across the country. Those who are interested in gaining political awareness may like to join. Further details will be announced shortly in the website www.ngpl.org.in. For more details, contact Ms G Priyadharshni Rahul, National President: ngplforum@gmail.com





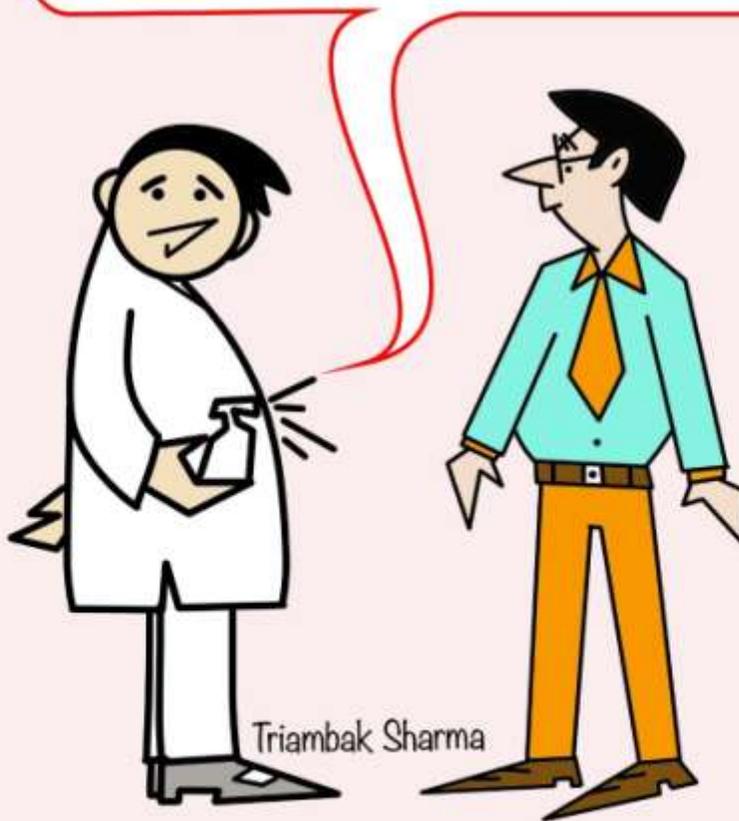
PRince

By Triambak Sharma

www.cartoonwatchindia.com
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Always keep Sanitizer with you..Even after Lockdown is over..stay safe..



News - Lockdown Two till May 3, 2020 (Coronavirus Pandemic)



National

Performance of Parliament till End of Budget Session 2020



The current 17th Lok Sabha commenced its first session on 17th June 2019. The third session of the 17th Lok Sabha (Budget Session 2020) was adjourned *sine die* on 23rd March 2020. The 17th Lok Sabha has thus completed three sessions in 80 sittings.

Budget Session 2020

The budget session of the Parliament was held from 31st January 2020 to 23rd March 2020, with a recess from 12th February to 1st March 2020. The session was scheduled to have 31 sittings and conclude on 3rd April 2020. However, because of the public health emergency created by the Coronavirus outbreak, the Parliament was adjourned *sine die* on 23rd March 2020, after having sat for a total of 23 days.

Lower Productivity Due to Disruption

The overall productivity in this session was lower than the previous two sessions of the 17th Lok Sabha. While productivity was high in the first half, productivity in the second half declined due to disruptions in both Houses.

In this session, Lok Sabha sat for 86% of its scheduled time (as per sittings held till 23rd March 2020). In the first half, Lok Sabha functioned for 94% of the scheduled time, and post recess, it functioned for 82% of the scheduled time.

Rajya Sabha's productivity during the entire budget session was at 74%. In the first half, the Upper House functioned for 94% of the scheduled time. Post recess, it functioned for 62% of the scheduled time.

The Parliament was interrupted on a few occasions as opposition members raised the issue of lack of law and order in multiple parts of Delhi. Seven MPs from Lok Sabha were suspended on 5th March for the remaining period of the session. This suspension was revoked on 11th March. The issue of law and order in Delhi was later discussed for 4-1/2 hours each in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.



Budget Discussion

During a budget session, after recess, Lok Sabha discusses the expenditure of selected ministries. This session, the expenditure of the following ministries was listed for discussion in Lok Sabha:

1. Railways,
2. Social Justice and Empowerment,
3. Tourism,
4. Health and Family Welfare,
5. External Affairs, and
6. Housing and Urban Affairs.

However, discussions were held on the expenditure of the ministries of Railways, Social Justice and Empowerment, and Tourism. These form 17% of the total expenditure of the central government. The remaining 83% of expenditure was 'guillotined' (or passed without discussion).

Top Performers of Lok Sabha (cumulative from first sitting to Budget Session 2020)

- Smt Supriya Sule (NCP – Maharashtra) has secured the first position with a total tally of 285 points for (a) Initiated Debates (b) Private Members Bills and (c) Question. She attended 89% of the sittings.
- Shri Shrirang Appa Barne (Shiv Sena – Maharashtra) has secured the second position with a total tally of 221 points. He attended 93% of the sittings.

Both of them are Sansad Ratna Awardees of the 16th Lok Sabha.

Performance of States (based on their Members performance)

Maharashtra (score 113.1) and Kerala (score 97.0) are the top scorers among all the major states.

Performance of Political Parties (based on their Members performance)

- RSP (score 185) and AIMIE (score 146.5) are the toppers among the small parties.
- NCP (score 141.8) and Shiv Sena (score 113.2) are the toppers among the major parties.

PreSense congratulates the top performers among the individuals, the States and the Political Parties.

Data Source : Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites and PRS India

by G Priyadharshni Rahul, Deputy Editor



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