

PR SENSE

Spreading positive vibrations

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In this Issue:

- P2 Coal Scam
- P3 Emergency 1975
- P4 Pre-Emergency
- P5 Emergency Trauma
- P6 Post Emergency
- P7 Shah Commission
- P8 Education Loan
- P9 Prince Cartoon
- P10 Ignited Minds
- P11 Tennis row

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From the desk of Editor-in-Chief



We are happy that our new pattern of contents with four segments (1) National and historical importance, (2) Ignited Minds - achievers, (3) Prince Cartoon and (4) Controversy has received a good response from the readers. In this edition, we are dealing extensively on the dark days of 1975 Emergency, which has been hidden from the history.

As usual, we are featuring two achievers. The recent 'Tennis row' has generated a lot of controversy about the intention of the players. We deal with this tennis issue in this edition.

Every month, we have been publishing the photos of the great heroes, for their contribution. In this edition, we have published and featured Mr Hansraj Gangaram Ahir MP as the cover story. He is the whistle blower for the coal scam involving around 25 lakh crores of revenue loss to the Government.

We wish all the readers a happy reading. Please also share this ezine with your friends. Please also share your feedback with us.

K. Srinivasan

Whistleblower of Coal scam of Rs.25 lakh crores

Mr Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, BJP MP from Chandrapur, Maharashtra is one of the top performers of 15th Lok Sabha. He has been receiving Sansad Ratna Award for the past 3 years, instituted by Prime Point Foundation and this Ezine. He is now the whistleblower of Coal scam, which is being discussed in the media.

He has been the member of Standing Committee on Coal, Steel and Mines since 2004. As a Standing Committee member, he was observing that the coal blocks were being given to non-existent or to persons without any experience free of cost on a royalty basis, which was meagre.

During the period between 2006 and 2009, he found that more than 155 coal blocks were given in a hurried manner, without allotting them on auction basis.

Almost from 2006 onwards, he has been writing letters to Coal Minister and Prime

Minister drawing their attention. Excepting routine acknowledgements no action was taken. He also reported the irregularities to The Controller and Auditor General of India (CAG). After his exposure in the Parliament, now CAG has started investigations.



Even Central vigilance Commission (CVC) has ordered CBI to investigate into the matter. According to Mr Hansraj, the estimated loss of revenue to the Government is estimated around 25 lakh crores. This is only for the coal. He says that lot of scams involving large amount still remain undetected in mines involving natural resources like gold, diamond, thorium, etc. PreSense congratulates him for his great initiative. .

National – Remembering the historic events

37 years back in June 1975, Indian Democracy came to a grinding halt – 21 months of dark days of Indian history suppressed



After independence, India has faced several challenges and every time, it has overcome with courage and conviction. India got the freedom from British in the midnight of 14/15th August 1947. The same freedom and democracy was put to a 'grinding halt' in the midnight of 25/26 June 1975.

In the midnight of that day, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahamed, issued a proclamation on the advice of then Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, as follows:

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 352 of the Constitution, I, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India, by this Proclamation declare that a grave emergency exists whereby the

security of India is threatened by internal disturbances."

By this historic proclamation, the freedom enjoyed by the citizens of India was removed. Some of the provisions of the Constitution were suspended. Even the judiciary was made powerless. Immediately within few hours, all the national leaders like Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai, Kripalani, George Fernandes, Chandrasekhar, Vajpayee, L K Advani, Charan Singh and many others were arrested in the midnight and put behind the bars.



Since there are not much of the records of the darker days, the present generation has been successfully prevented from knowing the dark side of the Indian history. In this edition, we try to bring out some of the important aspects of Indian Emergency.

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National – Remembering the historic events

Circumstances leading to proclamation of Emergency



Immediately after the victory in Indo-Pak war which created Bangladesh, the Congress led by Indira Gandhi (photo above) won a massive majority in 1971 General Elections. During that time, the country was suffering from large scale unemployment, price rise, etc. Sarvodaya leader Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan (popularly known as JP) gave a call for 'Total revolution'. People gathered around JP in large number (photo below).



The opposition parties got united under the banner 'Jan Morcha', to fight against Indira Gandhi.

Earlier Indira Gandhi and Raj Narain (photo below) fought the Lok Sabha

Election from Rae Bareli Lok Sabha Constituency in 1971.

Indira Gandhi was declared elected. Raj Narain filed an election petition in the Allahabad High Court, alleging that Indira Gandhi committed election fraud by misusing the Government

machinery. Shanthi Bhushan, the noted advocate argued for Raj Narain. On 12th June 1975, Allahabad High Court declared Indira Gandhi's victory as null and void and also banned her from contesting elections for six years. This sent shock waves. Even Supreme Court refused to stay the order of Allahabad High Court. On the same day, Congress led by Indira Gandhi lost Assembly Elections and the Jan Morcha alliance captured the power.

The opposition leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan and others demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister. There was lot of protests against Indira Gandhi at that time.

With this background, on the suggestions of Siddhartha Sankar Ray, then Chief Minister of West Bengal, Indira Gandhi advised the President of India to declare internal emergency in India.



National – Remembering the historic events

Emergency days – Four pillars of democracy crippled



Nearly 1,40,000 leaders were arrested during this period. Of this, around 40,000 were from Sikh community. Even some of the senior leaders were handcuffed (See photo of George Fernandes in a handcuff).



Sycophants surrounded Indira Gandhi. Many excesses were committed. Sterilizations were done forcibly. Huts were removed through police force. Many officers were 'more loyal to the kingdom than the king himself'. Indira Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi was accused of all the excesses. (Now Sanjay Gandhi's wife Menaka and son Varun are in BJP). (Sanjay and Indira in the top photo)

Powers of the Courts were removed. There was acute press censorship. Only Doordarshan and All India Radio were

giving out Government based news. Print Media had to show their news item to the Censor Officer in all the Regions to get approval. Hence, the people were not getting correct information. Only handful of papers showed courage at that time. We have to appreciate the courage shown by Indian Express and Thuglak (Cho Ramaswamy) at that time, to fight against the emergency. Indian Express as a mark of protest against 'censorship' published a 'blank editorial'. Through this 'blank editorial', they conveyed a powerful message to their readers, more than what could have been communicated through a well written editorial. (Photo)

When the papers were asked to bend, many of the national papers started crawling. Historically, the so called 'big brands' of today, crawled during the emergency days, to save their skin.



Dr Subramaniam Swamy was a Member of Parliament then. The Government wanted to arrest him. Every time, he used to show his head in Parliament and within few hours he would surface in some other foreign country. He was giving a tough fight against the emergency.

Rashtriya Suyam Sevak Sangh (RSS) was banned. Their leaders were arrested. Many of them went underground. They were working against emergency in disguise. Even many of the Communist leaders were arrested.

National – Remembering the historic events

End of Emergency – All records destroyed

Elections declared

On 23rd Jan 1977, Indira Gandhi announced elections to the Lok Sabha. Emergency was lifted on 23rd March 1977, after 21 months. After the declaration of elections, all the leaders were released from jail.

When the leaders came out, they did not have money or organisational structure. The workers were also in prison.



under the same symbol of 'chakra-haldhar'. (picture)

In the General Elections, Janata Party and its allies swept the polls by getting 330 seats out of 542 in the Lok Sabha. Indira Gandhi could win only in 154 seats, that too in the four states of South India. In the North India, Indira Gandhi got only 2 seats. Both Indira Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi were defeated. Indira Gandhi apologized for the emergency excesses and atrocities.

During the emergency days, Indira Gandhi made a constitutional amendment (known as 42nd amendment) crippling the constitutional powers. But after Janata Party came to power, they reversed all the amendments, to restore the supremacy of the Constitution. (popularly known as 44th amendment).

Appointment of Shah Commission by Janata Government

Janata Party formed the Government under the Prime Ministership of Morarji Desai. (picture) They appointed a Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice Shah to enquire into the atrocities



and excess committed during the Emergency period. Justice Shah also submitted his report in August 1978.

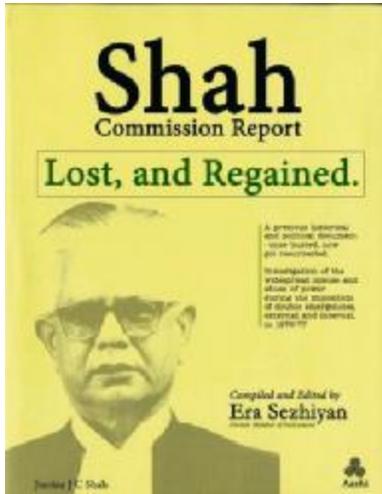
Very unfortunately, the Janata Government could not continue for long, due to the internal differences of the leaders. Thereafter, the Janata Party also got split into various parties, like Janata Dal, BJP, Samajvadi Party, etc. Presently, Dr Subramaniam Swamy is the lone leader who is remaining in the original Janata Party.

Indira back to power

Indira Gandhi came back to power in 1980. After her coming back to power, all the copies of Shah Commission Report were removed from the libraries, including from the Parliament and National libraries. Not even one single copy of the report was available after that time.

National – Remembering the historic events

Shah Commission Report – Lost and Regained



The entire 21 months dark period of Indian democracy was buried under carpet. Mr Era Sezhiyan, a well known Parliamentarian and a Member of Parliament during the

Emergency period had one copy of the Shah Commission Report in his library. He is now at 90. Now the report has been reprinted and published. I have taken an interview with Mr Sezhiyan about the Shah Commission Report. Please listen to an exclusive interview with Mr Era. Sezhiyan on Shah Commission Report. <http://goo.gl/XONfE>

The interview can also be watched from Youtube <http://goo.gl/OrPH8>

Forgotten history and heroes

The martyrs have been forgotten in the history. Attempts were made to erase this part of the history. Because of the ignorance of this great struggle, even Anna Hazare team calls their movement as 'second freedom movement'. Calling Anna Hazare movement as second freedom struggle will amount to belittling the sacrifices made by Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan and other great leaders. More than 1,40,000 leaders spent their time in prison during emergency days.

Let us salute those Unsung Heroes who fought to restore the democracy back to India.

Abu Abraham's popular cartoon in *Indian Express* dt. 10.12.1975

Abu Abraham's (A well known Indian Cartoonist) cartoon in *Indian Express* showing Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signing the Emergency declaration from his bathtub.

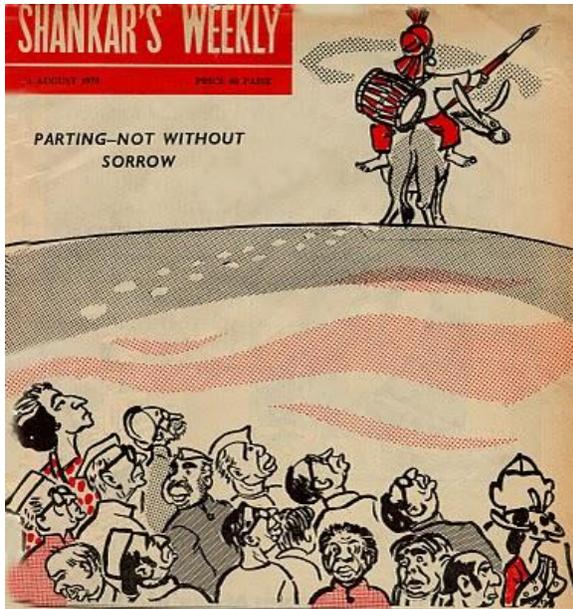
In this cartoon, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed tells PM's emissary, "If there are any more ordinances, just ask them to wait".

This cartoon is the most popular cartoon published by *Indian Express* with courage.



National – Remembering the historic events

Shankar's weekly – Last cover 31st August 1975



Shankar's weekly, the most popular cartoon magazine of India, started in 1948, exclusively for cartoons was forced to shut down in 1975 after introduction Press Censorship during Emergency.

After 27 years of publication, Shankar's Weekly published their last edition on 31st August 1975. The cover page carried the words, "Parting – Not without sorrow". (Picture).

In the Editorial of the last edition, Shankar Pillai, the Editor wrote, "Dictatorships cannot afford laughter because people may laugh at the dictator and that wouldn't do. In all the years of Hitler, there never was a good comedy, not a good cartoon, not a parody, or a spoof. From this point, the world and sadly

enough India have become grimmer."

Education Loan guidelines – Violations by Banks

Presently only Public Sector banks follow the IBA model scheme for granting Education Loan. Central Government's interest subsidy is available only when the loan is granted under IBA Scheme.

- Private banks do not follow IBA Scheme, thereby depriving the benefit of Interest Subsidy to poor students
- Interest should not be collected forcibly from the students, during the study period. Many Public Sector Banks are forcing the students to pay monthly interest, as a pre-condition to release the next stage payment of payment. Poor students resort to external borrowing at high interest. The purpose of the scheme gets defeated.
- As per IBA Scheme, no security, margin or guarantee should be demanded for loans upto 4 lakhs. Many Public Sector Banks insist on security, margin and guarantee.

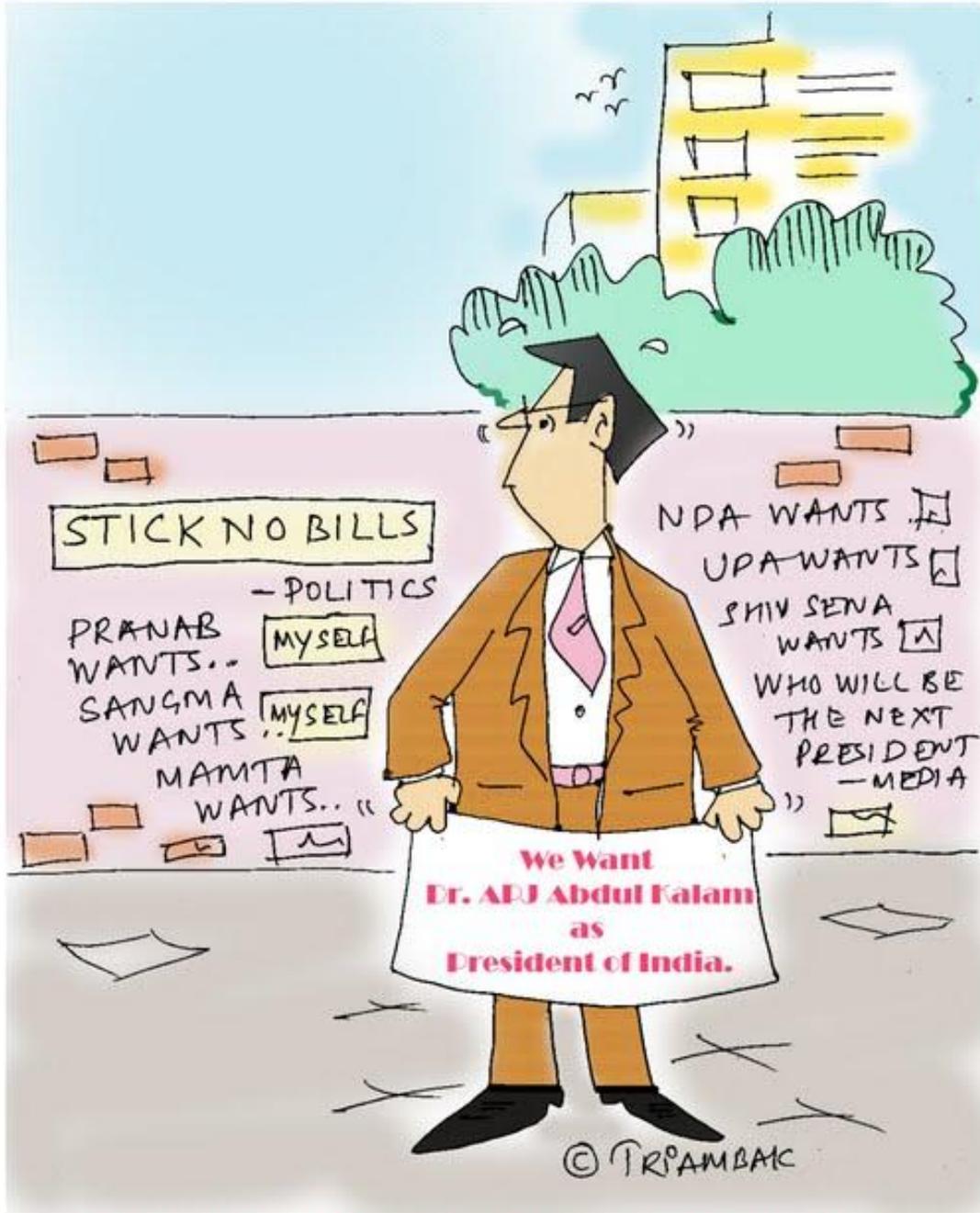
Education Loan Task Force (ELTF) has taken up several such violations with higher authorities and RBI for solution. Please visit www.eltf.in for complete details. Any violations may be informed to info@eltf.in with full details.



PRince

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DENT IN PRINCE'S HEART = PRINCIDENT

Ignited minds – silent achievers

J Prabhakar brought 700 plus small NGOs together

Mr J Prabhakar (58), an artist by profession started his social service by campaigning against the evils of 'liquor' in 1985. He used to visit villages around Chennai then and campaign for values and ethics. He even brought Anna Hazare in 1989 to some of the villages towards his mission. At that time Anna Hazare was not popular in the nation and he was doing great service in the Ralegan Siddhi village at Maharashtra.



One day in 2005, he got an idea of bringing together various unsung NGOs who were doing great service in various parts of Tamilnadu under a single banner. On 2nd October 2005, he brought nearly 100 such small NGOs together under the banner 'Ennangalin Sangamam', meaning 'Fusion of thoughts'. He also convenes a meeting of all the NGOs, every year on the first Sunday of January. Every year, he has been adding nearly 100 small NGOs in this movement. So far, he has brought together more than 700 NGOs.

These NGOs are working in different areas like health, rural development, education, anti-liquor campaign, etc. These NGOs are able to meet in small groups and get the support of each other. Prabhakar also suggests suitable NGOs, if a particular donor wants to utilize his money for a specific cause. J Prabhakar can be reached at jp.sangamam@gmail.com

Dr Chandra Gupta has completed 600 plus free dental camps

Dr Chandra Gupta (35), when he was studying in a Dental College, Bangalore went to a tribal village for training. As a student, he was pained to see how the poor people did not care for their dental hygiene. That prompted him to spend the weekends with the school children promoting the dental hygiene, even after his setting up private practice. He has also motivated some of his like minded doctors to do this service free of cost.



So far, he has conducted around 625 dental camps free of cost in various schools and colleges. On an average, he conducts around 7 to 8 camps every month. Till date, nearly 2 lakh people have been screened by him. During the dental camps, he conducts a thorough dental screening, demonstrates correct brushing techniques, gives tips on dental hygiene. If there are any sponsors, he also provides 'dental health pack'. In these days, when many of the doctors want to spend every minute of their time for making money, Dr Gupta wants to spend his leisure time with the children. While many NGOs and medical universities organise general health camps, dental camps are very rare.

Dr Gupta can be reached at drguptadentalcare@yahoo.com

National – Controversy

Personal ego of the Tennis stars Vs national interest



The 2012 London Olympic tournament will be the fourteenth edition of tennis at the Olympics (excluding the two Olympics when tennis was a demonstration event), and the seventh since 1988 where tennis was officially brought back into the Olympic Games. For the first time since 1924, Mixed doubles will be an official Olympic event. The tournament will be played from 28th July to 5th August 2012, making it the first grass court tournament since tennis was re-introduced to the Olympics.

All India Tennis Association (AITA) named Laender Paes (India's No 1 and World No 7) to be paired with Mahesh Bhupathy (World rank 14) to represent India. Even though Paes and Bhupathy were the proven successful pair in the earlier tournaments, Bhupathy refused to play with Paes now and called Paes a 'backstabber'. He wanted to pair with Bopanna (World rank 12). Bopanna also refused to pair with Laender Paes for the London Olympics.

Though, Union Government wanted to sort out this issue, they could not resolve. AITA alternatively paired Paes with Vishnu Vardhan (World rank 206). Paes refused to play with 'low ranked' players in the Olympics, as it would reduce the winning chances. Paes, even threatened to withdraw from Olympics, if he was pressurized. Now, the latest information is that Paes has agreed to pair with Vishnu Vardhan.

Meanwhile, Paes' father made an open appeal through media that Sania Mirza (India's No 1) should give in writing to pair with Paes in the 'Mixed Doubles'. This was not liked by Sania. However, AITA has announced pairing Paes and Sania in the Mixed Doubles. But, Sania prefers to play with Bhupathy. This confusion is going on, while the entire nation is watching anxiously this drama to end soon.

Message to be learnt

Though Tennis and Cricket are the popular games in many parts of the world, India has always been giving top priority to Cricket, ignoring the other games, including Tennis. We have only a few top players in Tennis. That too they have come up of their own. Unfortunately, these top ranking players suffer from their own personal ego issues, without keeping the national interest in an International event like 2012 London Olympics. Instead of making the nation's Tri colour fly high, they prefer their ego to fly high. AITA and the Government should draw lessons from this episode and try to develop more number of Tennis players of international standard.



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