

# PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

Issue No 124 – June 2017  
Published by Prime Point Foundation

## Cover Story of the Month



**Race to Raisina**

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## From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief



The Editorial Team is pleased to release the 124th (June 2017) edition of your ezine PreSense with the regular thought-provoking contents.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, the world celebrated International Yoga Day. As our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi said, Yoga is India's gift to the world. Our Editorial deals with Yoga and its relevance.

The Election Commission has announced the election process for the next President and Vice President. In the Cover Story, we explain the election process of these two Constitutional Authorities. We have

also included articles on GST and PSLV C38. We have retrieved from the archives of the ezine, a write-up on the dark days of Emergency, which was declared on June 25<sup>th</sup> in 1975.

We are confident that you will continue to enjoy this edition too.

Please send us your feedback to [editor@corpezine.com](mailto:editor@corpezine.com).

*K. Srinivasan*

## Launch of 125<sup>th</sup> Edition of PreSense and DiJAI Students' Forum

### Announcement

The 125<sup>th</sup> edition of your ezine PreSense will be launched on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017, coinciding with the second death anniversary of Dr Abdul Kalam.

Digital Journalists' Association of India (DiJAI) is one of the initiatives of this ezine PreSense. PreSense and DiJAI will form 'DiJAI Students' Forum' in three select colleges in Chennai (Sathyabama University, Soko Ikeda College of Arts & Science for Women and Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts & Science for Women) with 30 student-members from each college. On 27<sup>th</sup> July, the DiJAI Students' Forum will be launched at Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women, RA Puram, Chennai.

Dr Mariazeena Johnson, Pro-Chancellor, Sathyabama University will launch the 125<sup>th</sup> edition and the Students' Forum. A workshop on Digital Journalism will be held for the benefit of the Students Forum. As a tribute to Dr Abdul Kalam for his idea of 'positive and development journalism, PreSense and DiJAI aim to promote his idea through the students. Based on the initial experience, we plan to take the plans forward to include other educational institutions.

Susan Koshy, Editor, PreSense



## Editorial

### Yoga – A Health Pack



International Yoga Day was celebrated recently on June 21<sup>st</sup>, in its third year in running since the United Nations declared it so, in 2014. India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi had dedicated it, saying it was India's gift to the world.

Yoga is internationally popular and was practised even before 2014, thanks to *yogis* and *gurus* who promoted it among their disciples during their visits abroad. Yoga is acknowledged as a health practice. In spite of this, several communities especially certain religious sects continue to have reservations about accepting Yoga and practising it. They allege that yoga is the propagation of a particular religious doctrine. For example, leaders of a particular religious body have banned their followers from practising yoga as it contained elements of another religious sect (*viz* the utterance of 'Aum') and participating in it would be against their own doctrine. Another religious community too considers practising yoga against their doctrine for the same reason. Some believers insist that practising yoga is blasphemous.

What is the truth then? Does yoga have a religious tincture? To understand this, we must understand the meaning of yoga. Yoga means union, derived from the Sanskrit word, *yug* to mean join or unite. Yoga thus is the synchrony of the physical, mental and spiritual. The result is the toning up of the body through dedicated physical activities performed with the concentrated attention of the mind and focus of the spirit. A synonym for yoga that is better accepted is 'mindfulness'. Mindfulness is being in the 'here and now' (the mind) in the activity involved (the body) so that the instinctive intelligence (the spirit) is stimulated with beneficial results. Exercise develops the body, concentration develops the mind, meditation/prayerfulness stimulates the spirit. Yoga is a practice that promotes a



stimulation of all three through synchrony. This is why yoga is proven to have positive results for physical and mental health, and spiritual sobriety or balance.

Yoga was practised as a disciplined habit among the people of India until the Britishers, who occupied India, qualified it as a religious practice. They also attributed the use of *Aum* to Hindu worship. However, *Aum* is a combination of three vibratory syllables 'A(Aaa), U(Ooo), and M(Mmm). Scientific experiments have shown that these syllables when uttered correctly in sequence, have good harmonious effects on the person, promoting good health (Refer article titled "The Universal Word of Aum..." in the September 2014 issue of PreSense). Therefore, *Aum* has scientific and spiritual significance. However, people's ignorance has reduced the powerful tri-syllable to a religious ritual.

**Aum is a combination of three vibratory syllables 'A(Aaa), U(Ooo), and M(Mmm). Scientific experiments have shown that these syllables when uttered correctly in sequence, have good harmonious effects on the person, promoting good health. Aum has scientific and spiritual significance. However, people's ignorance has reduced the powerful tri-syllable to a religious ritual.**

An example of misinterpretation of a word due to ignorance was witnessed in a South-east Asian country where a controversy arose over the use of the word 'Allah' to refer to God, by the locals of a particular religious community that was not Islamic. There was apprehension that their using the word could mislead Muslims away from Islam. The locals of that other religious community who worshipped in Arabic, were therefore banned

from using 'Allah' in their printed religious literature. To set the record straight, the word *Allah* means god in the Arabic language and it is not a proper noun or name, to be owned by a particular sect or community only. But the practice and common usage of the word by one religious community has influenced people into thinking that 'Allah' is a personal name with its exclusive ownership by a particular religious sect only. Yoga and *Aum* seem to have suffered from a similar misinterpretation.

Yoga is very Indian, just as Tai Chi is traditionally Chinese. Tai Chi is a series of slow, meditative body movements that was originally designed for self-defence, through harmony of the inner elements of mind and spirit. That does not make Tai Chi an activity of violence. Instead it is a discipline that promotes health. It is practised universally and found to be beneficial for a healthy lifestyle. So also, Yoga was originally intended as a discipline to connect with the divine. It has since emerged as a wholesome health practice.

Yoga, if practised by every world citizen, has the potential to create world peace and universal health.

**By Susan Koshy, Editor**

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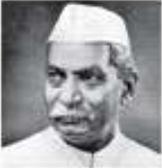
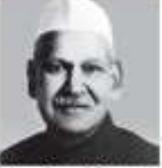
## Cover Story

### Race to Raisina

Elections for the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India will be held in July 2017, with Members of Parliament (MPs) from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha exercising their franchise. Besides, Members from the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) of all the States will also cast their votes in the hotly contested presidential election between Ram Nath Kovind of BJP-led NDA and Meira Kumar of Congress-led opposition.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started the election process for the offices of the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India as well as the 13<sup>th</sup> Vice President of India. The eligibility, election process, duties and functions are defined in the Indian Constitution under various articles from 52 to 72 and in subsequent articles. The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act 1952 gives the detailed procedures of the election process. ECI conducts the elections as provided in the Indian Constitution.

### Occupants of Rashtrapati Bhavan

<b>1952</b>	1. Rajendra Prasad 2. K T Shah	5,07,400 92,827	Winner Loser			
<b>1957</b>	1. Rajendra Prasad 2. Chowdhry Hari Ram	4,59,698 2,672	Winner Loser			
<b>1962</b>	1. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan 2. Chowdhry Hari Ram	5,53,067 6,341	Winner Loser			
<b>1967</b>	1. Zakir Hussain 2. Kota Subbarao	4,71,244 3,63,971	Winner Loser			
<b>1969</b>	1. V V Giri 2. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy	4,01,515 3,13,548	Winner Loser			
<b>1974</b>	1. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed 2. Tridib Chaudhuri	7,65,587 1,89,196	Winner Loser			
<b>1977</b>	Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy	Unopposed				
<b>1982</b>	1. Gyani Zail Singh 2. H R Khanna	7,54,113 2,82,685	Winner Loser			
<b>1987</b>	1. R Venkataraman 2. V R Krishna Iyer	7,40,148 2,81,550	Winner Loser			
<b>1992</b>	1. Shanker Dayal Sharma 2. G G Swell	6,75,864 3,46,485	Winner Loser			
<b>1997</b>	1. K R Narayanan 2. T N Seshan	9,56,290 50,631	Winner Loser			
<b>2002</b>	1. A P J Abdul Kalam 2. Smt. Lakshmi Sahgal	9,22,884 1,07,366	Winner Loser			
<b>2007</b>	1. Pratibha Devisingh Patil 2. Bhalron Singh Shekhawat	6,38,116 3,31,306	Winner Loser			

### Role of President

India has adopted the Parliamentary form of democracy, where the President is the 'Head of the State' and he governs the nation, based on the advice of the 'Council of Ministers' headed by the Prime Minister. The President is the first citizen of India and also the Supreme Commander of the defence forces. The President is vested with executive,



legislative, financial, judicial and emergency powers under the Constitution.

In situations like a political crisis and a hung Parliament, the role of the President becomes crucial and most significant. For this reason, the President has to be free from all political affiliations. He is expected to act with complete constitutional rectitude and impartiality. The nation is expected to benefit from his able leadership and constructive role. The President of India is the symbol of national unity, the magnet of loyalty and the apparatus of ceremony.

While the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers, the Parliamentarians and the Legislators take the oath 'affirming to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India', the President of India takes an oath to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution'.

### **Process of Election**

The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act 1952 details the election process. Any Indian citizen, who has completed 35 years of age, can contest for the office of the President of India. He should be someone who is eligible to be a member of Lok Sabha. He should be proposed and seconded by a minimum of 50 eligible electors while submitting the nomination. The security deposit for filing the nomination is Rs.15,000/-.

The President is elected by the electoral college of the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures, including the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry. The election process is unique. Every elector has a unique value for his vote. Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of different states have different values, based on the population of that state and the number of elected legislators. All the Members of Parliament (MPs) of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have the similar values.

### **Calculating the Value of Electors**

The value of the vote of a member of a State Legislative Assembly is calculated by dividing the population of the State (as per census 1971) by the total number of elected members of the Assembly, and then divide the quotient by 1000. After arriving at the value of all the State Assemblies, the value of each State Assembly is worked out by multiplying the number of elected seats in the Assembly by the value of votes for each member. The total value of all the State Assemblies are added together.

This figure is divided by the total number of elected members of Parliament (Lok Sabha 543+Rajya Sabha 233) to get the value of votes of each Member of Parliament.

Presently, the value of the vote of one MP (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) is 708. Every Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Uttar Pradesh has the highest value of 208 among all the State Assemblies. The MLAs from Sikkim have only a value of 7.

The total value of all the electors (4129 MLAs and 776 MPs) is 1,098,882. If a candidate has to win, he/she should get a minimum of 549,442 votes.

As the Presidential election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, every elector has as many preferences as the candidates contesting the elections. The winning candidate has to secure the required quota of votes to be declared elected, i.e. 50% of valid votes polled +1.



**STATEMENT OF VALUE OF VOTES OF ELECTED MEMBERS  
OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES AND  
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AS PER  
PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 55(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

SL. No.	NAME OF STATE	NUMBER OF ASSEMBLY SEATS (ELECTIVE)	POPULATION (1971 CENSUS)	VALUE OF VOTE OF EACH M.L.A.	TOTAL VALUE OF VOTES FOR THE STATE
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	294	43502708	148	148 X 294 = 43512
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	60	467511	8	008 X 060 = 480
3.	ASSAM	126	14625152	116	116 X 126 = 14616
4.	BIHAR	243	42126236	173	173 X 243 = 42039
5.	CHHATTISGARH	90	11637494	129	129 X 090 = 11610
6.	GOA	40	795120	20	020 X 040 = 800
7.	GUJARAT	182	26697475	147	147 X 182 = 26754
8.	HARYANA	90	10036808	112	112 X 090 = 10080
9.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	68	3460434	51	051 X 068 = 3468
10.	JAMMU & KASHMIR*	87	6300000	72	072 X 087 = 6264
11.	JHARKHAND	81	14227133	176	176 X 081 = 14256
12.	KARNATAKA	224	29299014	131	131 X 224 = 29344
13.	KERALA	140	21347375	152	152 X 140 = 21280
14.	MADHYA PRADESH	230	30016625	131	131 X 230 = 30130
15.	MAHARASHTRA	288	50412235	175	175 X 288 = 50400
16.	MANIPUR	60	1072753	18	018 X 060 = 1080
17.	MEGHALAYA	60	1011699	17	017 X 060 = 1020
18.	MIZORAM	40	332390	8	008 X 040 = 320
19.	NAGALAND	60	516449	9	009 X 060 = 540
20.	ODISHA	147	21944615	149	149 X 147 = 21903
21.	PUNJAB	117	13551060	116	116 X 117 = 13572
22.	RAJASTHAN	200	25765806	129	129 X 200 = 25800
23.	SIKKIM	32	209843	7	007 X 032 = 224
24.	TAMIL NADU	234	41199168	176	176 X 234 = 41184
25.	TRIPURA	60	1556342	26	026 X 060 = 1560
26.	UTTARAKHAND	70	4491239	64	064 X 070 = 4480
27.	UTTAR PRADESH	403	83849905	208	208 X 403 = 83824
28.	WEST BENGAL	294	44312011	151	151 X 294 = 44394
29.	NCT OF DELHI	70	4065698	58	058 X 070 = 4060
30.	PUDUCHERRY	30	471707	16	016 X 030 = 480
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4120</b>	<b>549302005</b>		<b>= 549474</b>

\* Constitution (Application to the Jammu & Kashmir) Order

### How the Elections Are Held

Elections are held in the premises of State Assemblies and in the Parliament. Ballot papers are printed in two colours viz. green and pink. Green is used by Members of Parliament and pink is used by Members of State Legislative Assemblies. The ballot papers have two columns. The first column contains the names of all the candidates. In the second column, the electors have to mark their preference, say 1, 2, 3 against each candidate.

### How the Ballot Papers are Counted

All the ballot boxes are taken to Delhi for counting. Firstly, the invalid ballot papers are removed. In the first round, the valid ballot papers are distributed to the candidates, based on the first preference marked by the electors against each candidate. Since the value of each ballot varies, the counting officials will carefully calculate the value of the votes



obtained by each candidate through first preference, by taking into account the value of each ballot of an MP or MLA.

The total value of votes secured by all the candidates is ascertained by adding up the value of votes secured by each candidate. This is the total value of valid votes polled in the election. This is the first round of counting.

### **Quota to Win the Election**

The total value of valid votes is then divided by two, and one is added to the quotient so obtained, ignoring the remainder, if any. The number so determined, is the quota, which a candidate should secure to be declared elected. If the total value of the votes credited to any candidate at the first count, is equal to, or greater than the quota sufficient to secure the return of a candidate, he is declared elected by the Returning Officer. If, however, after the first round of counting, no candidate secures the requisite quota, then the counting proceeds on the basis of a process of elimination and exclusion.

### **Process of Elimination and Exclusion**

The candidate credited with the lowest number of votes is excluded and all his ballot papers are distributed among the remaining (continuing) candidates on the basis of the second preferences marked thereon. The value of such transferred ballot papers will be the same as the value at which the excluded candidate received them. The ballot papers on which second preference is not marked is treated as exhausted ballot papers and shall not be further counted, even if the third or subsequent preferences are marked thereon.

If no candidate secures the requisite quota, then the process of counting will continue on the same basis of elimination and exclusion, till a candidate secures the required quota of votes. In case, even after the exclusion of the candidates receiving the lowest number of votes, no candidate secures the requisite quota and ultimately one candidate remains as the lone continuing candidate, he is declared elected even if he fails to secure the quota sufficient to secure the return of a candidate.

### **Election Process for Vice President of India**

Any Indian citizen who is above 35 and who is eligible to become a member of the Rajya Sabha, can contest for Vice President. The Vice President is the Ex-Officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Vice President is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha (elected and nominated members). A minimum of 20 eligible electors should propose and a minimum of 20 eligible electors should second the nomination. Presently 790 members are eligible to elect Vice President.

The Vice President is also elected by means of a proportional representation, using the single transferable vote. The eligible electors rank the candidates in order of preference, as is done in the case of Presidential elections. They will mark '1' in the blank space next to their first preference, and '2' in the blank of their second preference.

But only the Members of Parliament can elect the Vice President. The total number of votes is divided by 2, plus 1 to get the eligibility for the candidate to win. The counting process is done as in the Presidential election, based on the first preference in the first round and second preference in the second round, etc.



## Presidential Election 2017

Presently, Shri Ramnath Kovind, Former Governor of Bihar (nominated by NDA) and Smt Meira Kumar, Former Speaker of Lok Sabha (nominated by UPA) are in the race for the Office of the President of India. The parties should not issue whips to their members, and the electors are expected to vote as per their conscience. Since NDA is said to score more than 60% of the value of votes, Shri Ramnath Kovind is likely to become the 14<sup>th</sup> President of India.

As we are writing this article, the Election Commission has also notified the election process for Vice Presidential election.

By Sukruti Narayanan, Editorial Team



## Forward Mania Syndrome of WhatsApp Users

In the recent days, many of the WhatsApp users are suffering from "Forward mania syndrome". That means whenever they receive any message in their whatsapp inbox, (including personal messages), their fingers immediately jump to forward to all their contacts, whether it is relevant or irrelevant. They don't understand that they are causing lot of inconvenience to others, unknowingly. I request all whatsapp users to avoid sending forwarded images and videos to any one. These images and videos will get downloaded in the mobile and cause problems to mobile users. Without the knowledge of the sender and unknowingly every day the sender of such messages causes inconvenience to many

mobile users. A survey reveals that more than 95% percent of receivers do not even look at the photos and videos. They feel uncomfortable to receive such forwarded images and videos. This is also a wastage of bandwidth.

Everybody can use whatsapp chat or group to send his/her original messages for conversation. If needed they can send YouTube link with proper introduction in the original message. Also do not simply forward the videos, without mentioning about the relevance of such video. You can share this message with everyone who is in the habit of forwarding everything to others.

K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief





# PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



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Don't Go there to understand GST...  
It is office of Gopal Service Transport...



## Nation

### Goods & Services Tax (GST) Roll Out

The Modi Government is burning the midnight oil to ensure the all-comprehensive single uniform tax – Goods & Services Tax (GST), is implemented by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, for which it has convened a special session of Parliament in the midnight of June 30<sup>th</sup> to roll out the historic legislation in the presence of the opposition. The Modi government had endorsed GST when the package of four legislations were adopted by Lok Sabha and returned by Rajya Sabha (Rajya Sabha cannot adopt money bills; it can only return).

The new tax seeks to usher in a uniform indirect tax regime in the country. It will not lead to inflation as apprehended by some sections, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has stated. Successive governments have contributed towards the formulation of GST, and no one person can take credit for it. The bills were cleared by the Rajya Sabha after negotiation of a host of amendments moved by the opposition parties. The main opposition, the Congress did not move any amendment. The Lok Sabha had passed these bills on March 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. Towards the third week of May, the Government gave the final approval to its rules and rates. In order to implement GST, the Parliament cleared the Central GST Bill, 2017; The Integrated GST Bill, 2017; The GST (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017; and The Union Territory GST Bill, 2017.

#### Goods & Services Tax (GST)

GST seeks to replace all taxes earlier levied by the Central and State governments.

GST is implemented through the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act 2016, following the passage 122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Bill of the Constitution. GST is governed by the GST Council and its Chairman is the Union Finance Minister. Under GST, goods and services will be taxed at the following rates:

0.25%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%. There is a special rate of 0.25% on rough precious and semi-precious stones and 3% on gold.

If we delve into its history, we will learn that in 1986, the then Prime Minister Vishwanath

**Be GST Ready** >>> GST coming from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017

**NATION TAX MARKET**

**Freedom from maintaining too many records.**  
Under GST, One record is enough.

**Accounts and Records**

- Compliance verification in GST will be done through examination of accounts and records maintained, only if required.
- One tax, one type of record: No need to maintain separate records for different type of taxes as in the era of VAT, Excise and Service Tax.
- There will be freedom to choose the format of the accounts & records, and only information needed is prescribed. The records can take the form of paper-based source documents including computer printouts or digital records.
- The required records are:-
  - All records of goods and services that a person supplies or receives in the course of his business;
  - All records of goods imported; and
  - Any other supporting documents such as contracts and price quotation to show his liability to GST.
- Digital GST Records can be maintained in electronic format as well.
- Where a certain class of taxable persons cannot keep and maintain records as prescribed, the Commissioner may permit them to maintain records otherwise as prescribed.

**1. Taxable persons with turnover of less than 2 crores are not required to get their accounts audited or submit reconciliation statement with annual returns.**

**2. Single records to be kept by agents, transporters and warehouse keepers:**

**Agents:** A person working as an agent is required to maintain records depicting the description, value and quantity (wherever applicable) of goods or services received or supplied on behalf of principal, and details of accounts furnished to every principal.

**Transporters:** A person engaged in the business of transporting goods is required to maintain simple records of goods transported & delivered, and goods stored in transit by him.

**Warehouse keepers:** A person operating a warehouse or godown is required to keep records with respect to the dispatch, movement, receipt, disposal and period for which the goods remain in the warehouse or godown.

Tweet us at @askGST\_Gov for any GST related query

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Pratap Singh introduced the Modified Value Added Tax (MODVAT). Goods and Services Tax (GST) will subsume various indirect taxes including Central Excise Duty, Services Tax, Additional Customs Duty, Surcharges, State-level Value Added Tax and Octroi. Other levies which are currently applicable on inter-state transportation of goods are also likely to be done away with in the GST regime.

The following taxes will be bound together by GST: Central Excise Duty, Commercial Tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Food Tax, Central Sales Tax (CST), Octroi, Entertainment Tax, Entry Tax, Purchase Tax, Luxury Tax and Advertisement Tax. There will be no GST on the sale and purchase of securities. That will continue to be governed by Securities Transaction Tax (STT).

GST will be levied on all transactions such as sale, transfer, purchase, barter, lease, or import of goods and/or services. India will adopt a dual GST model, which means that taxation will be administered by both the Union and State Governments. Transactions made within a single state will be levied with Central GST (CGST) by the Central Government and State GST (SGST) by the government of that state. For inter-state transactions and imported goods or services, an Integrated GST (IGST) will be levied by the Central Government. GST is a consumption-based tax; therefore, taxes will be paid to the state where the goods or services are consumed and not the state where they are produced. IGST complicates tax collection for State Governments by disabling them from collecting tax due to them directly from the Central Government. Under the previous system, a state would have had to deal only with a single government to collect tax revenue.

It is proposed to insulate the revenues of the states from the impact of GST. Besides, it will take some more time to include petroleum products under GST since sales tax and other local levies are different in different states. The Centre is trying to hammer out a formula on how to share revenues and compensate states, with the free market determining prices on a daily basis. The Central Government has assured the states of compensation for any revenue loss incurred by them from the date of implementation of GST upto a period of five years. A major effect of the GST roll-out is the daily changes in fuel prices in India.

A 21-member select committee was formed to look into the proposed GST law. State and Union Territory GST laws were passed by all the states and Union Territories of India except Jammu & Kashmir, paving the way for smooth roll-out of the tax from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

In a parallel development, a 'Goods and Services Tax' Network (GSTN), a non-profit organisation, has been formed to create a platform for all the parties concerned viz. stakeholders, the government and taxpayers to collaborate on a single portal. The portal will be accessible to the central government, which will be able to track every transaction on its end while the taxpayers will have a vast service to return/file their taxes and maintain records. The Information Technology (IT) network will be developed by private firms, which will tie up with the Central Government and will take its share of stakes accordingly. The known authorised capital of GSTN is ₹10 crore (US\$1.6 million) in which the Central Government holds 24.5% of shares while the state government holds 24.5% and the rest by private banking firms.

Under the GST Act, GST has to be implemented latest by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 with a grace period upto September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Thereafter, all previous taxes will cease to exist. This is the reason that the Government is intent on rolling out GST by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to subsume all indirect taxes and replace it with a single uniform tax.

**By T.N. Ashok, Editorial Advisor**

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## Technology

### India Successfully Launches PSLV-C38

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the 712-kilogram Cartosat-2 series satellite for earth observation along with 30 co-passenger satellites in one go, into a pre-designed polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.

#### The PSLV-C38 - the Vehicle and its Launch

- a) It is the successful launch of the PSLV rocket for the 40<sup>th</sup> time in a row.
- b) ISRO has also successfully performed an advanced experiment in the 4<sup>th</sup> stage of the rocket, to facilitate futuristic advanced missions.
- c) India is a member of the International Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), and has contributed significantly to crafting that organisation's mitigation guidelines. The fourth stage of PSLV-C38 is wonderfully and completely IADC-compliant, to the envy of some of the other countries.



#### The Launched Satellites

- a) The Cartosat-2 satellite:
  - i) The speciality of India's sophisticated cartography satellite Cartosat-2 that was launched recently is that it would pass over any particular place on Earth's surface, around 12 times a day and approximately at the same local solar times.
  - ii) It can take pictures with a one-metre resolution – this means that the number of cars presently parked in a farm house garden in Kenya or the number of cars and trucks presently moving in a New York highway can be viewed live. Such a satellite is useful for imaging, spy and weather applications.
- b) Along with Cartosat-2, 30 other satellites were also launched into different orbits and at different altitudes.
- c) The mission assumes significance for the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, as it carried a satellite indigenously developed by the students of Noorul Islam University in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. The satellite is specially designed for agricultural crop monitoring and disaster management support applications.

Hence the successful PSLV-C38 launch by our country demonstrates the technological prowess of India in the difficult-to-master space domain, making every Indian feel safer, more secure and absolutely proud.

**By Prof Dr R. Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor**



## National – Remembering Historic Events

### 42 Years Ago in June 1975, Indian Democracy Came to a Grinding Halt – 21 months of Dark Days of Indian history Suppressed



Since independence, India has faced several challenges and every time, it has overcome with courage and conviction. India got freedom from the 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 Ahmed, 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 a few hours, 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 bars.



Since there is not much by way of records of the darker days, the present generation is not well aware of the dark side of this part of Indian history. In this article, we have made an attempt to bring out some of the important events during the Indian Emergency.

#### Circumstances Leading to Proclamation of Emergency

Immediately after India's victory in the Indo-Pak war which culminated in the formation of a new country of Bangladesh, the Congress, led by Indira Gandhi, won by a massive majority in the 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 a 'total revolution'. People gathered around JP in large numbers. The opposition parties united under the banner 'Jan Morcha', to fight against Indira Gandhi.





Indira Gandhi and Raj Narain

Earlier, Indira Gandhi and Raj Narain had fought the Lok Sabha Election from the Rae Bareilly 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 an election fraud by misusing Government machinery. Shanthi Bhushan, the noted advocate argued for Raj Narain. On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1975, the Allahabad High Court declared Indira Gandhi's victory null and void and also banned her from contesting elections for six years.

This sent shock waves. The Supreme Court refused to stay the order of the Allahabad High Court. The same day, the Congress Party led by Indira Gandhi lost the Assembly Elections in Gujarat and the *Jan Morcha* alliance captured power.

The opposition leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan and others demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister. There were protests against Indira Gandhi in many places at that time.

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



Jayaprakash Narayan

### Emergency Days – Four Pillars of Democracy Crippled



Sanjay and Indira Gandhi

Nearly 140,000 leaders were arrested during this period. Of this, around 40,000 were from the Sikh community. Some of the senior leaders were handcuffed (See photo of George Fernandes in a handcuff).

Sycophants surrounded Indira Gandhi. Excesses were committed. Sterilisations were carried out 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).

The powers of the Courts were removed. There was press censorship. Only Doordarshan and All India Radio were transmitting Government approved news. The print media had to



show their news items to the Regional Government Censor Officers for approval before publishing the news. Therefore, the people did not get accurate information. Only some of the newspapers showed courage at that time. We must appreciate the courage shown by Indian Express and Tuglak (Cho Ramaswamy's) at that time, in the 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 newspapers were asked to heed government pressure, many of the national papers succumbed. The so-called 'big brands' of newspapers today, had succumbed to the pressure 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 that he used to appear in the Parliament, within a few hours thereafter, he would resurface in a foreign country. He showed resistance against the emergency.

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

### End of Emergency – Elections Declared – Janata Party Government Formed

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

When the leaders came out, they had neither money nor organisational structure. The workers were also in prison. Four major political parties, viz. Congress (O), Bharatiya Jan Sangh, Bharatiya Lok Dal and Socialist Party merged to form 'Janata Party'. All of them contested under the same symbol of 'chakra-haldhar'. (picture)



Preamble of original  
Indian Constitution

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

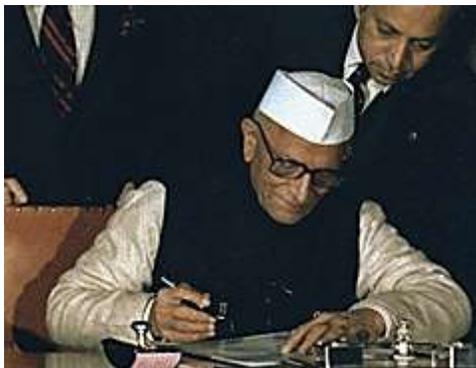
During the emergency days, Indira Gandhi had made some controversial constitutional amendments (known as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) crippling constitutional powers. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment changed the description of India from a "sovereign democratic republic" to a "sovereign, socialist secular democratic republic", and also changed the words "unity of the nation" to "unity and integrity of the nation".



When a similar amendment was proposed by Shri K T Shah in the Constituent Assembly, Dr B R Ambedkar had opposed such amendments. He said, "What should be the policy of the State, how the Society should be organised in its social and economic side are matters which must be decided by the people themselves according to time and circumstances. It cannot be laid down in the Constitution itself, because that is destroying democracy altogether." Notwithstanding this, many amendments were made, clipping the powers of the State Governments and the Judiciary. Even fundamental duties were included in the Constitution.

After the Janata Party came to power, they reversed most of the amendments, to restore the supremacy of the Constitution. (popularly known as 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment). However, the preamble could not be restored to its original form.

### **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 submitted his report in August 1978.

Unfortunately, the Janata Government could not continue for long, due to internal differences among its leaders. Thereafter, the Janata Party split into different parties, like Janata Dal, BJP, Samajvadi Party, etc. Presently, Dr Subramaniam Swamy is the lone leader

who remains with the original Janata Party.

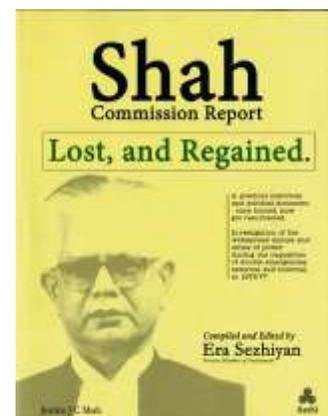
### **Indira Back in Power**

Indira Gandhi returned to power in 1980. After her coming back to power, all the copies of Shah Commission Report were removed from libraries, including the Parliament and national libraries. Not a single copy of the report was available thereafter for a while.

### **Shah Commission Report – Lost and Regained**

The entire 21 months' dark period of Indian democracy was buried under the carpet. Mr Era Sezhiyan, a well-known Parliamentarian during the Emergency period had one copy of the Shah Commission Report in his library. That copy of the report has been reprinted and published. On behalf of PreSense, we had interviewed Mr Sezhiyan in December 2010 about the Shah Commission Report. The interview can be watched on Youtube. (Mr Era Sezhiyan passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the age of 93)

[https://youtu.be/l\\_1wk-wYQZ4](https://youtu.be/l_1wk-wYQZ4).



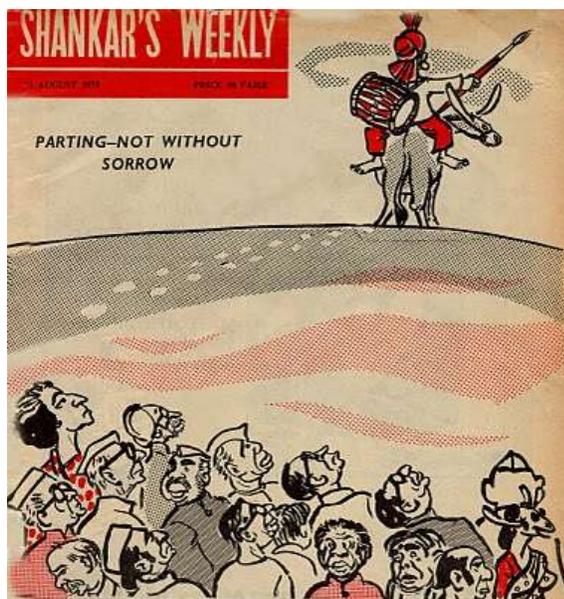
### Abu Abraham's Popular Cartoon in *Indian Express* dated 10.12.1975

Abu Abraham's (A well-known Indian Cartoonist) cartoon in *Indian Express* shows Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signing the Emergency declaration from his bathtub. In this cartoon, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed tells the PM's emissary, "If there are any more ordinances, just ask them to wait".



This cartoon was the most popular cartoon published by the courageous Express.

### Shankar's Weekly – Last Cover 31<sup>st</sup> August 1975



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

After 27 years of publication, Shankar's Weekly published their last edition on 31<sup>st</sup> 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."

### Forgotten History and Heroes

The martyrs have been forgotten in history. Attempts were made to erase this part of history. Because of ignorance about this great struggle, even Anna Hazare team called his movement the 'Second Freedom Movement'. Referring to Anna Hazare's movement as second freedom struggle would amount to belittling the sacrifices made by Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan and the other great leaders. More than 140,000 leaders spent their time in prison during the emergency days.

Let us salute those UnSung Heroes, who fought to restore democracy in India.

**By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief** (Reproduced from June 2012 edition of PreSense)



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