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**A COLLECTOR'S DIGEST**

Prime Point Srinivasan | Susan Koshy | V. Rajendran | Triambak Sharma



Prime Point Foundation | Chennai

First published	June 2015
Second Revised Edition	June 2016
Third Revised Edition	March 2018
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ISBN	978-93-82237-54-9
Pages	320
Price:	Rs. 250
Printed at	Safire Litho Graphics, Sivakasi.
Publishers:	Prime Point Foundation Old No 8, New No 14, Vasam Street, T Nagar, Chennai 600017. <a href="http://www.corpezine.com">www.corpezine.com</a> <a href="mailto:editor@corpezine.com">editor@corpezine.com</a>

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## Foreword From Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
Former President of India



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New Delhi-110011

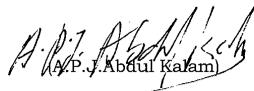
### FOREWORD

I am very happy to know that the PreSense monthly ezine published by Prime Point Foundation is bringing out a book based on some of the unique articles, interviews and events published in its editions so far since from March 2006. The 100 issues of the publication have gone through an eventful journey, focusing on knowledge capture and important knowledge dissemination. I recollect my direct association with PreSense in July 2008, when I launched the cartoon character, 'Prince', created exclusively for PreSense.

I see PreSense continuing in its journey under the mentorship of Prime Point Srinivasan, maintaining its status as a must-read ezine, in the fast moving and evolving world of communication, knowledge and connectivity.

I congratulate the Editorial Team of PreSense for bringing out the 100<sup>th</sup> Edition as a Collector's Digest.

28<sup>th</sup> May 2015

  
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
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## Preface to the First Edition

The emergence of Internet in the 1980s changed the way of communication globally. When Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) introduced the internet for commercial use on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995, India too adopted the new communication model and medium.

Way back in 2002, we published our first electronic newsletter in a move that was viewed as progressive and visionary in nature. After 8 issues, we had to discontinue the newsletter as its electronic form was not regarded contemporary then. In March 2006, we resumed with an ezine titled 'PreSense' with a shift in focus to creating awareness about the essence in personal and corporate communication.

Interestingly, at that time, no bigwig was willing to give an exclusive interview for the re-launching ezine, or even launch it, as there was apprehension about the success of the concept of an electronic magazine. Dr Y S Rajan (co-author of the book, India 2020, with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam) however encouraged us and volunteered to launch the ezine online.

And so we progressed, introducing interesting interviews with eminent personalities recorded on podcast and synchronised with the ezine format, so that the readers were treated to both online reading of contents as well as audio version of interviews. This enabled the readers to a feel of listening to the personalities they have read about in the ezine. We also introduced the concept of Guest Editorship, enabling the association of renowned professionals to share their experience and viewpoints as Editor for the month. This move gave an uplift to the outlook of the ezine and a new trend in its journey ahead.

Many newsletters and ezines launched during the same period were discontinued later for various reasons. PreSense however, survived the test of time and continued till its 60<sup>th</sup> edition in February 2011. After a deliberate brief break of a few months, we resumed the publication of our ezine, with a new look and a shift again in the focus to a social and general theme, with the tagline, 'Spreading Positive Vibrations'. This shift in focus enabled a more holistic approach to the theme and subject of communication. The attention moved to global current news, historically significant events, and knowledge-based breakthroughs in technology. This

turned out to be an exciting challenge for the editorial team to sustain the positive strain while including novel and currently interesting topics for the reading pleasure.

Although an ezine might not be comparable with a giant-sized main line medium of communication, it has its own advantages as a medium of reaching out. The *Sansad Ratna* Award Scheme and the Education Loan Task Force were two major initiatives by our ezine, giving it the privilege of being recognised as the host to two major issues of national relevance.

Over a period of 9 years, our ezine has given opportunities to many young people to experience firsthand, the nitty-gritty of digital magazine making, editing and publishing. At the request of many of our loyal readers, we are now bringing out this book called 'PreSense 100', containing 100 plus articles, handpicked from the past 99 editions of our ezine. We felt that the selected articles qualified as a collector's item, and hence this special issue is described as a Collector's Digest. It is our belief that the reader too will appreciate it as one.

Up until now, our ezine has been published, not for commercial gains. We are proud to have many professionals on board, contributing their valuable time and talent in the making of the ezine every month.

I place on record my gratitude and appreciation to all the past Editorial Team Members like Satish Naaraj, Vidya, Tushar Panchal, Veena Vinod, Swetha and innumerable others who contributed immensely to make the ezine a professional one.

I personally thank our ezine's Editorial Team members for their sustained support in bringing out this book. I acknowledge the valuable support given by Susan Koshy, V Rajendran, T N Ashok, Prof. Jagannathan, Sukruti Vadula and Dr Ramamurthy Natarajan for editing and formatting this book.

At this stage, it is pertinent to mention that during the process of publishing every edition of the ezine, there was the collective, professional and committed involvement and input of every editorial team that was associated then. It has been the endeavour of the team to maintain a progressively high standard of the contents and readability of the ezine. We believe these efforts met the expectations of the readers, based on the positive and constructive feedback we kept receiving from our diverse and loyal readership base.

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Right from the beginning, we have always been the beneficiary of the blessings and guidance of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. I also thank Mr V Ponraj, (Scientific Advisor to Dr Abdul Kalam) who supported us in the selection of its contents.

When we planned to publish this book for free distribution, Dr Maria Zeena of Sathyabhama University volunteered to sponsor the cost. I thank her and her team for the noble gesture. I thank Polaris (Padmini and her team) for designing the cover. I thank Sri Logeswari Prints and its owner, Shri M Muthaian for bringing out this book on time.

I thank the innumerable readers and well-wishers who have given unstinted and close-knit support during our journey. Finally, I thank God Almighty for the divine blessings during the journey of 100 editions.

K Srinivasan  
Chairman, Prime Point Foundation  
Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Chennai  
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## **Preface to the Second Edition**

The First edition of PreSense 100 was released in June 2015 as a digest of articles published in the earlier 99 editions. The first edition received an overwhelming response from multifarious groups as students, IAS aspirants, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and other intellectuals. In view of the support received from the readers, our editorial team decided to come out with the second enhanced edition titled PreSense 100+ with additional articles published between June 2015 and April 2016.

We thank Dr P Ganesan, Chairman of Sony Fire Works (Pvt) Limited and AAA College of Engineering and Technology, Sivakasi who volunteered to sponsor and print this second edition for distribution. The Editorial Team gratefully acknowledges the support given by Shri Bharath Matha Mohan (Educationist at Chennai) and Shri VSM Velmurugan (Chairman of VSM Groups, Kovilpatti) in bringing out this second edition. We also thank Smt. Padmini and her team at Intellect Design for designing the wrapper. We thank innumerable other people who contributed to make this second edition possible.

K. Srinivasan  
Editor in Chief  
PreSense

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## Preface to the Third Edition

The first edition of the Digest titled PreSense 100, containing articles published in the first 100 editions of our ezine was released in June 2015. The second enhanced edition titled PreSense 100+, covering 110 editions, was released in June 2016. Due to the overwhelming response from our readers, we are now bringing out the third enhanced edition, covering important articles published in 130 editions of our ezine PreSense. This Digest is titled PreSense 130.

Dr P Ganesan, Chairman of Sony Fire Works (Pvt) Limited and AAA College of Engineering and Technology, Sivakasi has always been a source of inspiration to us. He sponsored the second edition of Digest. This time too, he has volunteered to sponsor and print this third edition for distribution among youth.

We also thank Smt. Padmini and her team at Intellect Design for designing the wrapper. We thank innumerable other people who contributed to make this third edition possible.

K. Srinivasan  
Publisher & Mg. Editor  
PreSense

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## Editorial Team 2018



K Srinivasan, Publisher & Mg Editor: Former Banker now turned Image Management/Communication Professional. Social media Evangelist. Chairman of Prime Point Foundation and Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI).

Susan Koshy, Editor in Chief: Former General Manager of IDBI Bank Ltd and Communication Professional and Trainer. Secretary of Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI).



V Rajendran, Editor: Cyber Security and Cyber Law expert. He is Past President of Cyber Society of India (CySI) and presently Chairman of Digital Security Association of India (DiSAI).

T N Ashok, Consulting Editor: Senior accredited Journalist at New Delhi. Former Economic Editor of Press Trust of India (PTI). He is also a Communication Advisor to corporates.



Triambak Sharma, Editor of Cartoon Watch, the only cartoon magazine in India. A popular Cartoonist in North India. He draws the Prince cartoons for the ezine.

Dr R Jagannathan, an Academician. Former Vice Chancellor of Middle East University, UAE. Visiting Professor of physics to various leading universities in USA.



Dr Sudarsan Padmanabhan. Associate Professor at IIT Madraas. Expert in politics and governance.

Prof. Prabhakar Krishnamurthy, a well-known Economist and Management Professor. He is one of the few experts in India on 'Social Forecasting'.



Sukruti Narayanan, a Communication Professional, Entrepreneur and Trainer in Australia. Co-Founder & President of The Spark Icon, Australia; Global Head, World Communication Forum.

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## **Ezine PreSense - Initiatives and Impact**



## Journey of Ezine PreSense - Milestones

Dec 1999	Launch of Prime Point Foundation, Publisher of the ezine.
Feb 2006	Launch of ezine, PreSense online by Dr Y S Rajan.
Aug 2006	Integration of Podcast with the ezine contents.
Aug 2007	Introduction of Guest Editors.
Feb 2008	Second Anniversary Edition with Dr Abdul Kalam's exclusive interview. Masthead changed.
Apr 2008	First ezine to become 'Media Partner' for a global event held at London.
July 2008	Introduction of cartoons – Cartoon Character 'Prince' launched by Dr Abdul Kalam.
Sep 2008	Change in layout, introducing photographs on the cover.
Jan 2010	Ezine's new initiative 'Education Loan Task Force' (ELTF) launched to create awareness among students and parents.
May 2010	Ezine's second initiative to honour top performing Parliamentarians, with the <i>Sansad Ratna</i> Award launched. Golden Jubilee (50 <sup>th</sup> ) Edition launched.
Feb 2011	Diamond Jubilee (60 <sup>th</sup> ) Edition.
	<b>A hiatus after 5 years of uninterrupted journey</b>
Apr 2012	Ezine resumed in a new format of contents. The tag line changed from 'Communicate the Communication' to 'Spreading Positive Vibrations'.
Apr 2013	Tamil Nadu Governor launched a special edition on the Indian Parliament, coinciding with the <i>Sansad Ratna</i> Awards.
Jun 2013	Platinum Jubilee (75 <sup>th</sup> ) Edition launched by the youth at three places simultaneously, across the nation.
Jun 2015	100 <sup>th</sup> Edition - PreSense 100 released in print format.
Mar 2016	Ezine's third initiative 'Digital Journalists Association of India' (DiJAI) launched.
Jun 2016	Second edition of PreSense 100+ released in print format
Dec 2017	Ezine's fourth initiative 'Digital Security Association of India' (DiSAI) launched.
Mar 2018	Third edition of Digest PreSense130 released in print format.

The Journey Continues.....

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## Sansad Ratna Awards

### 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

At the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, there was a lot of criticism about the functioning of the Lok Sabha. Even the then Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, during the closing speech at the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, was highly emotional, and registered his unhappiness over the frequent disruption of the Parliament. The entire nation was criticising the Parliamentarians. Whenever a mock Parliament session was held in colleges and schools, the students started the sessions by throwing chairs and making noise. The elections were then also announced for 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.



Prime Point Foundation decided to focus on the positive aspects about democracy and to project the top performers in the Parliament, who quietly discharged their constitutional duties. During that time, Ezine PreSense (published by the Foundation) carried an exclusive issue in March 2009, with the theme '**Celebrate Democracy**'. While the entire media and the nation were criticising the Parliamentarians, the Ezine Team thought differently. They identified the top performers of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from the data released by PRS India

([www.prsindia.org](http://www.prsindia.org)), and featured them with their interviews. Shri Kharvendhan (Tamil Nadu), one of the top performers, guest edited the Ezine then. Shri Anand Rao Adsul (Maharashtra) secured the No. 1 position in the Questions category and in the overall performance tally during the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. Interestingly, he was interviewed at midnight for the Ezine, as he was busy preparing for his electoral campaign till then. The Ezine carried his audio and text interview.

Dr Abdul Kalam appreciated the concept of 'Celebrate Democracy' and gave a telephonic interview for the Ezine. His interview was published both in audio and text formats.

This marked the humble beginning of honouring the outstanding Parliamentarians by the civil society.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

After the completion of the first year of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, the Editorial Team decided to honour the top performers, on the total tally in the parameters of (a) Questions (b) Debates, and (c) Private Members Bills. Coinciding with the 50<sup>th</sup> edition, in May 2010, the Ezine honoured the top performers as 'UnSung Heroes'. Three Members of Parliament (MPs) viz. Shri Ananda Rao Adsul (Maharashtra), Shri Hansraj Ahir (Maharashtra) and Shri Ramasubbu (Tamil Nadu) were personally honoured at the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Chennai on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010 in the presence of eminent citizens of Chennai. Shri Adsul could not participate due to some other official engagement. Former Chief Election Commissioners of India, Shri T S Krishnamurthy and Shri N Gopalswamy honoured them. Dr Abdul Kalam gave a speech live through telephone from Delhi. The news was carried nationwide by the media.

Every year thereafter, the top performers were honoured based on their performance till the end of the first part of the Budget Session. The team selected the performers, based on the data supplied by PRS India. In April 2011, the Awards function was held at the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Chennai.

In 2012 (the third year), the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras supported the concept. From that year onwards, the top performers were selected under three categories viz. Questions, Debates, and Private Members Bills. In April 2012, Shri Gopalakrishna Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) presented the Awards. Dr Abdul Kalam greeted the Award winners through a video message. It was a day-long programme, with a panel discussion on 'Democracy' with the senior leaders of all political parties sharing their views. In 2012, this Award was christened 'Sansad Ratna Award'.

In 2013, the same selection procedure was followed. Dr K Rosaiah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, presented the Awards. The top performers among the women MPs (Sansad Mahila Ratna) and the topper in the youth category (Sansad Yuva Ratna) were introduced. The function was held in IIT Madras. This too was a day-long programme.

In Feb 2014, after the conclusion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, the top performing MPs who earned a total score of more than 1000 under the above three

categories, were honoured with Sansad Ratna Awards at Chennai Press Club in the presence of media professionals.

### Sansad Maha Ratna of 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

In an effort to motivate more MPs to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, the team decided to honour the MPs who scored the No. 1 position in (a) Questions (b) Debates and (c) Private Members Bills with the



**Anand Rao Adsul**

**Hansraj G Ahir**

**Arjun Ram Meghwal**

'Sansad Maha Ratna' Award, so that these three MPs could guide the team in framing the criteria for the selection process for the candidates for the Award from the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

Accordingly, Shri Anand Rao Adsul, Shri Hansraj Ahir and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, who had secured the No. 1 position in Questions, Private Bills and Debates respectively, were honoured with the 'Sansad Maha Ratna' Award in June 2015 and were requested to be the Panel Judges for the selection of Awardees of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. Shri Anand Rao Adsul, 5-times MP, accepted to chair the Committee of Judges and guide the Ezine's Team.

### 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

The Foundation registered **Ṣāṅṣād Rātnā**® and its logo under the Trade Marks Act 1999. The Committee of Judges finalised the rules for selecting the top performing Parliamentarians for the Sansad Ratna Awards of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. The Rules for the Award are published in its official site. The Award events are held jointly with IIT Madras every year after the Budget Session.

By K Srinivasan [www.sansadratna.in](http://www.sansadratna.in), [sansadratna@gmail.com](mailto:sansadratna@gmail.com)

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## Education Loan Task Force (ELTF)

India Vision 2020 online group and its offline group Action 2020 are the initiatives of Prime Point Foundation. The members of these groups became aware of the many poor, meritoriously deserving students who were not able to get education loans from banks due to their lack of awareness of the available facility, and the insensitivity of the banks to the students' genuine needs.

The Ezine PreSense team decided to create awareness about the education loan schemes. The January 2010 issue of the Ezine focused on the theme 'Education Loan Scheme', and carried an exclusive interview with Dr K C Chakrabarty, the then Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. The



Ezine also included some case studies about how some economically challenged but brilliant students were harassed by the banks. This edition created ripples. At the request of the Ezine, RBI nominated a 'Nodal Officer' at a very senior level to examine the education loan grievances. 'Education Loan Task Force' (ELTF) was formed with several eminent professionals and retired bankers as volunteers on board. The objective of ELTF is to create awareness among the banks and the students about the various guidelines under the education loan scheme.

In February 2010, Ezine PreSense organised a 'Face to Face' discussion in Chennai, with some senior level bank executives of major banks and the students, in the presence of TV and print media. The main-line media supported the initiative by regularly carrying articles and case studies on education loan.

ELTF is creating awareness among the students and parents through its website and the social media about the guidelines under the education loan. Students across the nation write to ELTF seeking guidance on various issues. Whenever, well-performing but economically challenged students especially from the rural sector are harassed by banks, ELTF takes up the case for redress with the chairman of the bank concerned, and with RBI. More than 90% of long pending grievances have been resolved within a week of ELTF taking up the issue with higher authorities.

Many Members of Parliament support this initiative. Some of the major and common grievances are taken up by these MPs in the Parliament to find a solution.

ELTF is a voluntary service outfit. ELTF does not interfere in the credit decisions of the banks. ELTF advocates that the banks should follow the RBI/IBA guidelines scrupulously, so that the deserving students, especially from the economically challenged backgrounds are not deprived of higher education due to lack of financial support.

Many banks take the help of ELTF to understand the problems of students.

Upto Dec 2017, ELTF has responded to more than 20,000 email queries, providing clarifications and guidance. More than 5,000 grievances were forwarded to higher authorities concerned for examination. Thousands of students across the country have benefitted by the services of ELTF, which works quietly for the mutual benefit of students and banks.

Website: **[www.eltf.in](http://www.eltf.in)**

Facebook: **<https://www.facebook.com/EducationLoanTaskForce>**

Email: **[info@eltf.in](mailto:info@eltf.in)**

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## **Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI)**

'Digital Journalists Association of India' (DiJAI), the third initiative of Ezine PreSense, was started as a Trust in Chennai, India in March 2016, to hone the professional skills in digital journalism among the professionals. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is its knowledge partner. DiJAI was inaugurated at IIT Madras on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016.

Prime Point Srinivasan (Mg. Editor of Ezine PreSense) is the Chairman and Managing Trustee of the Trust. Shri Rajendran (Editor of PreSense and Cyber Advocate), Smt. Susan Koshy (Former General Manager of IDBI Bank Limited and Editor-in-Chief of PreSense), Shri Nurullah (Tamil journalist), Dr Sudarshan (IIT Madras), and Shri E Perumal alias Bharathi Thamizhan (Online Editor of the Publication, The Tamil Hindu), are the other trustees.

The Trustees elected Shri E Perumal alias Bharathi Thamizhan as the President of DiJAI. The Trustees also elected Shri Nurullah and Shri Rajendran as Vice-President and Treasurer respectively. Susan Koshy is the Secretary of the Trust.

DiJAI has been organising workshops and seminars to enhance the digital journalism skills of the professionals. DiJAI has also started its Student Chapters in various colleges.

Email ID of DiJAI: [dijai.india@gmail.com](mailto:dijai.india@gmail.com)

Website: [www.dijai.in](http://www.dijai.in)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DiJAIIndia/>

Twitter [@Dijaiindia](https://twitter.com/Dijaiindia)

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## **Digital Security Association of India (DiSAI)**

Digital Security Association of India (DiSAI) is a non-profit Public Trust and NGO (Non-Government Organisation), with Trustees on its board holding expertise in technology and the academic field. This is the fourth initiative of Ezine PreSense.

V. Rajendran, Editor of PreSense, is the Founder and Chairman of DiSAI. Prof. Dr R. Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor of PreSense, and former Vice-Chancellor of the Middle East University, UAE and the American Medical University, West Indies, is the President of the new initiative.

Presently, the world is talking about Computer Security, Network Security, Internet Security, System Security, Information security and Cyber Security. With technology penetration in all walks of life impacting human life globally, safety and security of data in communication including the other aspects associated with life viz. ethical security, societal security, and legal security assume greater significance. DiSAI embarks on a new journey in this direction focussing on this niche area of digital security, involving all the stake holders in the area.

Those interested in getting associated with the initiative, irrespective of their location, may contact DiSAI at [info@disai.in](mailto:info@disai.in) or [disai.india@gmail.com](mailto:disai.india@gmail.com).

For more details, please visit [www.disai.in](http://www.disai.in)

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## **Section I: General and Exclusives**



## **“Parents and teachers have to set an example of the value system” – Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**

In an exclusive interview with K Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India spoke on the various contemporary issues faced by the youth. This interview was recorded during the release of the Golden Jubilee issue (April 2010) of PreSense. Excerpts:



**Q: In this technology-driven global village, everything is looked at from the RoI (Return on Investment) angle. Packaging is the name of the game. We see a consistent degeneration in the society's value system. The present**

**education system produces only graduates and not human beings. What, according to you, should be done to bring back the values in life, and live with pride?**

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

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

A: Organisations like Prime Point Foundation should initiate action to remedy this situation.

**Q: We do not have the kind of political leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Rajaji, Nehru, Kamaraj and Sardar Patel anymore. The youth get easily frustrated with the political system and many do not even participate in**

**the election process. What do you think should be done to make the young people participate in the political process and to bring about a transformation in the current situation?**

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

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

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

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

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

*Source: April 2010 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **“Youth Should Create Sustainable Rural Development Model” – Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**

*(This is the text of the speech delivered by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009, while addressing the members of ‘Action 2020 – UnConference’ organised by Ezine PreSense)*

Dear members of “Action 2020 - UnConference 2009’, my greetings to all of you. I am very happy to communicate with all of you telephonically, when you have assembled at Chennai, discussing about how to achieve Vision 2020 with peoples’ participation.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009, I inaugurated the Youth Meet at Pune and interacted with nearly 1500 young people. The theme, I selected for the youth was “The ignited minds of the youth is the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth”. Here it was important to remember the powerful call given by Swami Vivekananda: “how has all the knowledge in the world been gained but by the concentration of the power of the mind? The world is ready to give up its secret if we only know how to knock, how to give it the necessary blow. The strength and the force of the blow come through concentration. There is no limit to the power of the human mind. The more concentrated it is, the more power is brought to bear on one point. That is the secret”.

When I put forth this thought to the young, there was tremendous enthusiasm and the youth repeated the statement. Then I brought out the power of three great minds:

“It doesn’t matter who you are; you will achieve if you work for it”. Mario Capecchi – a street boy who became a noble prize winner in 2007 for his remarkable work on the gene that can be used to cure diseases such as cancer.

Failure did not deter him. Srinivasa Ramanujam with his optimum capability generated his own equations and became an expert in the number theory. He failed in his FA Exam, but he did not bother. Mathematics became his friend. He saw divinity associated with each number. He became a renowned number theorist and a great mathematician recognised by the world of mathematics including the Royal Society.

“Plant a tree and plant an idea”. Prof Wangari Maathai had a passion for the environment and bio-diversity and has been contributing to the sustainable development and growth of Planet Earth through tree plantation. She was instrumental in getting 31 million trees planted in 20 countries in the African region. She won the Nobel Prize for this unique contribution towards environmental upgradation. With these three thoughts, “It doesn't matter who you are, you will achieve if you work for it”, “Failure didn't deter him” and “Plant a tree and plant an idea”, the 1500 youth at Pune looked ignited; they were all asking, “tell us, what we can give?” I asked the audience, “Why don't you, young boys and girls, share your experience?” One girl got up and introduced herself as from rural Maharashtra. She said, “Mr. Kalam, let me share with you what my classmates and I have done. There is a hospital in our small town, where the entire place is dirty and the patients are not at all cared for. Seeing the situation, the student community decided to go to the hospital once a week to clean up the entire place including the toilets. And we also provide necessary help to the patients such as communicating with their relatives, drying their clothes, buying their medicines and giving them a feeling of cheer by talking to them.” What a noble mission?

A series of questions came in afterwards. The main question was what the youth could do to eradicate corruption in our system. Here I gave my experience at Adichunchunagari Mutt in 2005 when I addressed 50,000 students and thousands of parents in the presence of spiritual leaders and political leaders. After my address on Vision 2020, a girl named Bhavani got up. She said she was studying bio-science in the '10+1' class, and she wanted to know from me and the leaders sitting on the dais, what action the youth should take to eradicate corruption, so that we could live in a corruption-free society. The funds allotted for development could then reach the citizens fully. There was no response to this question forthcoming from any other quarter, so I had to answer. I said, “Dear Bhavani, your question is very important in the present context of the nation. You know, we are a population of one billion. We live in 200 million homes. It is estimated that 30% of the homes may be corrupt, that means 60 million homes are corrupt. Each home has on an average of 5 members: Father, mother, two sons + one daughter or parents + two daughters + one son. Now I have got a question for you Bhavani. In case your parents, particularly your father is unfortunately corrupt, will you go to your father and say “Father, please stop corruption - Our scriptures will not allow that, our teacher taught us so.” Will you say this to your father? There was pin drop silence. Then came the surprise. Almost all the children got up and said in a

chorus, "We can do it. We will stop our parents if they are corrupt." I could not believe this. Of course, I turned to the thousand of parents who were sitting there. I asked the mothers particularly, "How will you react to your daughter or son coming to you and saying that you should stop your corrupt actions?"

After some thought, a mother gave the following statement, "Mr. Kalam, so far no one has asked us such a direct question. But I want to tell you one thing on behalf of womanhood that daughters and sons have a unique relationship with their parents. They have a great and grand tool called mutual love and affection. If our child comes and tells us that we are corrupt, it is a great insult to me and my husband. We have to change, we have to change, we have to change." Then the whole gathering took the oath, "I will lead an honest life, free from all corruption and will set an example for others to adopt a transparent way of life".

I asked the youth of Pune, what is your reaction? They said, "We would like to take the same oath and abide by it." The entire hall reverberated when they took the oath. I realised that the Vision 2020 of transforming India into a developed nation will definitely succeed with such a committed youth power. Mr Prime Point Srinivasan, you may kindly see my website, [www.abdulkalam.com](http://www.abdulkalam.com) and click PURA as a business proposition. Here, many successful operational PURAs in different parts of the country have been described. Our young participants can definitely create such sustainable rural development model in their own area which will accelerate the realisation of our development of Vision 2020.

*(Source: January 2009 issue of Ezine PreSense)*

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## **“Wiki Respects Every Individual's Contribution” – Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia**

*K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief of PreSense interviewed Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007 during his visit to Chennai. Excerpts:*

**Q: Good morning Mr. Jimmy. What made you to start Wikipedia?**

Jimmy: I have been watching the growth of the free software moment, i.e. the open source software movement, and I have seen people coming together online to make software products of very high quality, all using free



licences. So, people can copy, modify, and re-distribute the work commercially and non-commercially. Then I realised this is a new social model which will allow the people to collaborate on anything and all kinds of things. Therefore, I thought ‘encyclopaedia’ would be a good project. I wanted a free online encyclopaedia available to all. That was the beginning of the idea.

**Q: In which year did you start Wikipedia?**

Jimmy: Wikipedia was started on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2001. Prior to that for two years, I had a project called “Nupedia”, which had the same objective as Wikipedia, in terms of a free licensed encyclopaedia with thousands of volunteers, but I did not have the idea of the “Wiki” editing model then. So, it was designed as a very traditional top down model that showed something generic.

**Q: So, how do you ensure the credibility of the information, and integrity?**

Jimmy: There is a very good community of users very actively and meticulously policing the site and they elect administrators amongst themselves. There are many mechanisms too on the website that allow the community to exercise controls and quality. For example, every single change is recorded in the “recent changes” page and all of the past versions

of the articles are saved forever so that if someone comes up and makes an article that is of a lower quality than it was before, someone can restore the best version. Several little techniques like that empower the community to actually build something that is more valuable.

**Q: What would happen if somebody gives wrong information or manipulates the information?**

Jimmy: Typically, that is a multiple step process. We are a very friendly and welcoming community and try to help people understand what we do. If somebody comes in and puts in some wrong information, say as a joke, they will get a preliminary warning that will say, "Please do not do this to Wikipedia. In our effort to create a high-quality encyclopaedia, we found your action inappropriate". You would be surprised that many people, when they read this would say "You know, actually I probably shouldn't have messed with Wikipedia." Beyond that, if they repeat it, they can be blocked from editing and the community can then revert to the previous version.

**Q: How can it help the corporate world?**

Jimmy: Many companies are now finding Wiki very useful for their employees to share the information quickly. The word "Wiki" comes from the Hawaiian word "Wiki Wiki" which means "quick". It is a quick collaboration. And so, one of the challenges that many companies face, particularly the large companies, is how to get the information flowing through the organisation in a fast and effective manner. Many times, companies make poor decisions simply because one part of the organisation has some information that the other part does not. The idea of Wiki inside a company is to enable people to really share information in a faster, broader, and simpler way. Many companies find Wikipedia very useful.

**Q: Do you have any advice for the corporate world?**

Jimmy: I think the best advice is to experiment with Wiki, respect the medium and understand what makes Wiki successful viz. "respect for every individual's contributions", so that even if someone in the company is doing something that is not so great, if you have a positive attitude of encouraging them, the others will see this and think for themselves about posting information. If you have a very hierarchical company, Wiki will not work for you because the employees will be too afraid to type something that may

upset their bosses. If you can accept that, Wiki will be an open process and it can work very well.

**Q: What inspired you to start Wikipedia?**

Jimmy: Originally, as I said it was the open source software, i.e. free software movement. As a child, when I was growing up, I had parents who really strongly emphasised about education. I went to a very small private school. There were only four children in my grade! It was a one-room school-house, very old fashioned, and small. I had lots of fun when I used to read the encyclopaedia. I used to read the words in Encyclopaedia Britannica. As a child I always had the idea of broad information and just loved reading.

**Q: How do you see the future of Wiki in another 5 to 10 years?**

Jimmy: I think one of the most important things that you are going to see in five to ten years is the editing process becoming a lot easier, a lot smoother and a lot more approachable by people who are not necessarily IT specialists. I think that is probably the most important thing that you are going to see. And I think you are going to see that Wiki is used for more things that are useful. You will realise that people can write for Wiki and can do fictions and all kinds of things in Wiki that I would have never expected, but I'm seeing all this creativity emerge online. I actually don't know. I think we have to watch and see what people come up with.

*Source: February 2007 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **“You need to be really passionate about making something to happen” - Dr Vinton G. Cerf, Father of Modern Internet**

Thirty years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1983, the world entered a new era of communication with the birth of ‘Modern Internet’ which we use today. This communication revolution was enabled by the TCP/IP protocol, developed by Dr Vinton G. Cerf and Robert E. Kahn. They are now regarded as ‘Fathers of Modern Internet’.



In those days, ARPANET was the wide-area network sponsored by the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). It went live in 1969, when Vinton Cerf was an ARPANET scientist at the Stanford University. The military became interested in a common protocol as different networks and systems using different and proprietary protocols began to hook up to ARPANET, and they found that they could not talk to each other easily.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1983, the new Internet Protocol TCP/IP, which replaced the older system, was accepted as the standard, and modern Internet was born. The Internet, a revolutionary and cost-effective communication system has transformed the lives of billions of people across the world. Using data "packet-switching", the new method of linking computers and sharing information paved the way for the arrival of the World Wide Web.

Dr Vinton G. Cerf (70), the main architect of Modern Internet, is presently the President and CEO of Google Special Services Inc. and Chief Internet Evangelist at Google. He visited Chennai in mid-January 2013 to participate in the annual meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) – India Council. Dr Vinton is the International President of ACM. We had the opportunity of recording his inspiring interview for PodUniversal and PreSense. (Link for his interview is given at the end of this article).

While people with less qualification and achievement pose themselves as great men, this legendary person, who revolutionised the entire globe

with his invention, looked simple and unassuming. In the 45 minutes of conversation with him, he came across as a down-to-earth man.

Dr Vinton Cerf has won hundreds of national and international awards for his achievement. He is the recipient of the 'Turing Award' for Technology, equivalent to the Nobel Prize, in Computing. Recently, President Obama appointed him as member of the National Science Board in the US Government.

Dr Vinton suffers from a hearing impairment from an early age, and he later attributed some of his interest in computer networking to its promise as an alternative communications channel for the hearing impaired. His personal disability triggered a great communication revolution in the globe.

In an exclusive interview with K. Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief of PreSense and PodUniversal, Dr Vinton said that at the time of the invention, his team had high hopes that this would become a powerful infrastructure in future. "I think those hopes have been largely realised" he added with pride.

On computer security, he said, "There is still plenty of work to be done on the technical side and on the training side to get users to adopt safer communication practices." He suggested the 'two-factor authentication' for the safety of the users.

On his passion, his achievement, and his message to the Indian youth, he said, "The simple message here is that you need to be really passionate about making something to happen and you better be prepared to be patient and persistent because some ideas, the Net included, will not be widely accepted." In the same breath, he also appreciated the Indian entrepreneurs for exporting their skill, talents and inventions to the rest of the world.

PreSense is proud to feature him as 'Man of the Month' (though he is the Man of the Century) in the current issue, when the world celebrates the 30th year of modern Internet.

Please listen to his interesting Podcast through the link given below:  
<http://youtube/V6VOAAQEyE0>

*Source: January 2013 issue of the Ezine PreSense*

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## **“Enhance Innovation and Invest in R & D” – Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**

*PreSense celebrated its Second Anniversary in Feb 2008. In an exclusive podcast interview with K Srinivasan, then Editor in Chief, Former President of India, Dr A J Abdul Kalam shared his views on “Role of Indian Industries in Realising Vision 2020”. Excerpts:*

Prime Point Srinivasan, my greetings to all of you, particularly for the e-magazine which you have started. I am glad that it is doing very well.

Now the topic is the role of Indian industry in realising India Vision 2020.

National economic development is powered by competitiveness. Competitiveness in turn is powered by Technology and Innovation. Indian Industry has to build International Competitiveness. There is a direct relation between Innovation Index and Competitiveness Index.

Today, India ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the Global Competitiveness Index and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Innovation Index. The Indian industry has to work to achieve a rank above 10 in the Global Competitiveness Index. That is my view. This will need enhancing the innovation and also investing in Research and Development to generate Technology locally.

Another aspect is “Profit with Integrity”. Profit with Integrity should become the motto of corporates, and it is essential for sustainable growth.

We have now achieved a GDP growth rate of 9%, which has to be increased to beyond 10% per annum. This should sustain over a period of a decade before India can become a fully developed nation.

When we grow, we have to look for inclusive growth. To spread the growth to the rural sector, we have to create nearly 7000 PURA (Providing Urban amenities to Rural Areas) Complexes covering about 6,00,000 villages, where 70% of the people live. Creation of PURA Complexes will need the active support of Corporate India. PURA Complexes help develop PURA Enterprises for local talents. This will ensure faster development of the whole nation.

Another aspect is fulfilling Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Two major

areas of CSR are:

- Providing quality education to all eligible candidates with employment scheme; and
- Providing health care to all the citizens.

In addition to the two major areas, corporates can consider providing quality employment to 'differently abled persons' by imparting quality training and skills. The corporates should contribute towards bridging the rural-urban divide and also facilitate the harmonious working of the three sectors, namely, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Service Sectors.

Emphasis in those areas, which I have suggested will enable faster development of the country leading to equity, prosperity and justice to all the citizens of the country.

*Source: February 2008 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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**“Building a Good Image is as Crucial as Doing a Good Business Plan or Technology Strategy” –  
Dr Y S Rajan, Co-Author of the book India 2020**

Dr Y S Rajan is the co-author of the book, India 2020 along with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. He is one of the well-known scientists of the country. In an exclusive interview for the inaugural issue (Mar 2006) with Ms Meera, Dr Rajan shared his views on the need of the communication. Excerpts:



**Q: How do you assess the prevailing environment in the communication industry (PR/Corpcomm), particularly in India? How has it evolved in the last five years?**

A: In terms of utilisation of technological tools in India, Corporate Communication (CC) have picked up well. In terms of soft skills much more can be done, especially if our communicators can draw from our cultural ethos and use the forms of native creativity. As for contents, CC has a long way to go. Presently, the audience base is very narrow.

Corporates should touch the heart of people through communication, generating positive feelings. But this is to be done carefully. Unnecessary and unreal hype will boomerang. If we do not project the real performers, and instead rely on their conventional icons alone, the faith and confidence of their consumers will be eroded. Merely showcasing celebrities as their ambassadors has its limitations.

Therefore, there is plenty of scope for breaking new grounds of communication, making it (a) a democratic dialogue and (b) a developmental disseminator.

**Q: How can communication help the giant Indian corporate sector achieve global leadership?**

A: There are success stories of the giant Indian corporate sector, and even of smaller ones as ICT, where global presence for trade, service and supply-

chain-presence have been achieved. In spite of it, there are several misconceptions and concerns about India - whether it is about the quality of the products sold or reliability as a trade partner. Communication is one medium through which we can overcome these apprehensions. The strength, the uniqueness and the relevance of the Indian companies need to be showcased to the foreign countries to convince them and their communities of the dependability of the Indian corporate sector.

For example, the message to be conveyed needs to be that "We are not here for marketing alone but also to improve the quality of your life". IBEF (India Brand Equity Foundation) a joint effort of the Ministry of Commerce & CII (Conderation of Indian Industry) is helping the corporate and the communicator in building a positive image branding. A good corporate image building plan is as critical as a good business plan or technology strategy.

*Source: March 2006 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **“Indian Election Commission is the eighth wonder of the world” – T S Krishnamurthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India**

In these days, when many of the companies break their heads about communicating with their few hundreds of internal stakeholders involved in



projects, an organisation in India successfully communicates and completes a ‘mega project’, which involves 5 million internal stakeholders, within 60 days. That is the Indian Election Commission, whose functioning can be classified as the ‘eighth wonder of the world’.

In India, the Election Commission holds general elections once in five years to elect ‘legislatures’ for the Union Government’s Parliament and 35 State Governments and Union Territories. During the general elections, the Indian Election Commission involves around 800 political parties, 5 million election officials, 700 companies of para military forces, 670 million voters, 800,000 polling booths and one million Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The entire precision-fine “world’s largest election” is completed within 60 days in the presence of national and international media to the satisfaction of all stakeholders and even the judiciary. Similar operations are being carried out for the assembly elections of State Governments.

The entire internal communication model adopted by the Indian Election Commission has raised the eyebrows of the entire world. In an exclusive interview with Narrendiran and Sakthi Prasanna of PreSense, Mr T S Krishnamurthy discloses the strategies of the communication. Mr Krishnamurthy who retired recently as Chief Election Commissioner of India, has successfully conducted one general election and several state elections during his tenure. Presently, he is being invited by many governments across the world to share his suggestions.

It was during his tenure that the election operations in India were made cent per cent electronic, the only one of its kind in the world to use EVMs for such a large voter population. Excerpts from his interview:

**Q: What are your strategies to communicate to 5 million government officials, who act as election officers during the elections?**

A: We have a two-tier system of communication with our officials. In the first tier, the Head Quarters of the Election Commission at Delhi provides training inputs to 'observers' who are deputed to oversee the election process, and other officials who in turn train at field level. In the second tier, the ground level officials are trained periodically by District Collectors. In these trainings, they are briefed and provided booklets (English and local languages) on the procedures, rules, use of EVMs etc. The entire training process is time bound and well monitored. Now, in India, we have around 4 million officials who can handle the election process efficiently.

**Q: How do you create awareness amongst the voters about their rights?**

A: In India, we have around 670 million voters spread across the country, including remote places. The Election Commission uses various tools like demonstration, film shows, posters and the print/electronic media to create awareness among the voters. Presently, in India, around 60 percent of the voters exercise their franchise. This does not happen even in developed countries. Our officials visit even remote places through different modes of transport like boats and elephants, to create awareness and conduct elections.

**Q: How do you communicate with political parties?**

A: We meet the representatives of all political parties every year and discuss with them about the various processes involved. All the good suggestions are taken up. We have an online newsletter "Election India". The website [www.eci.gov.in](http://www.eci.gov.in) is a very informative site, with more than 10,000 pages of content. Once the election process starts, the Election Commission briefs the media on a daily basis to update the stakeholders. The entire operation is done in a transparent manner using electronic voting machines, in the presence of all media. This has improved our credibility globally. With the use of technological tools, we are able to implement, probably the largest 'Face to Face' communication exercise, successfully.

*Source: June 2006 issue of Ezine PreSense*

## **Saluting ISRO – India's Pride – Dr Radhakrishnan, Chairman, ISRO: Scientist, Spiritual Person & Artiste**

### **Launch of GSLV D5**



**GSLV D5**

After 20 years of continued research and a few failures, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) team of scientists successfully launched the GSLV-D5 rocket using indigenous cryogenic engine, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014. They also successfully injected the 1982-Kg GSAT-14 communication satellite into its orbit.

Earlier on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the ISRO team successfully launched *Mangalyan*, Mars Orbiter Spacecraft, which is now on its way to reach Mars by September 2014.

Both these events are significant milestones in the Indian space programme and ISRO has made every Indian proud. The credit goes to the dedicated and committed team of scientists under the leadership of Dr K Radhakrishnan, Chairman of ISRO.

### **Dr Radhakrishnan, a Team Builder and Leader**

Dr Radhakrishnan (64) hails from Irinjalakuda, an ancient town near Thrissur (Kerala). He joined ISRO in 1971 as an engineering graduate. He completed his post-graduation in Management from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore and acquired a doctorate from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, while working in ISRO.

After serving in the space organisation at various levels, he took over the chairmanship of ISRO in November 2009. As chairman, he has been consistently displaying leadership qualities.

In April 2010, when the much anticipated indigenously built GSLV D3 mission failed due to a technical error in the Indian Cryogenic Stage, Dr Radhakrishnan appeared before the waiting media and explained the reasons, with an assurance to the nation that the mission would be

successfully re-launched within a year. Within three months when the PSLV was launched successfully, Dr Radhakrishnan introduced his team of key persons involved in the project, to the media and encouraged them to speak to the media about the mission. This gesture reflected the true spirit of leadership and teamwork of Dr Radhakrishnan.

During the recent launch of GSLV D5 with indigenous cryogenic engine, he paid tributes to Dr U R Rao, former ISRO chairman and the brain behind the proposed mission 20 years earlier, and gave due credit to him during the media conference. When the Prime Minister and later the President of India, after witnessing the successful launch of the two space missions, met Dr Radhakrishnan at Sriharikota, Dr Radhakrishnan had his entire team of scientists with him to meet them. On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014, the Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan Award for his contribution to the nation.

### **Exclusive Interview with PreSense - Future Plans**

In an exclusive telephonic interview with K Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief of the ezine, PreSense, Dr Radhakrishnan said that India currently held the 6<sup>th</sup> global position in space mission achievements, after USA, Russia, Europe, Japan and China. He also proudly added that currently, India ranked topmost in 'space applications' and that many countries were seeking guidance from India in this area of expertise. He said that India's space programme was 'application-oriented' in areas of education, disaster management, telecommunication, environmental protection, and the like.

When asked about future plans, he said that ISRO was already working on high power communication in K-A band, which would be three times higher in output than the present one. In microwave remote sensing, he said that ISRO was moving towards X, S and L bands, in addition to C band. ISRO would be launching *Chandrayan II* with indigenous lander and rover. On the launch vehicle side, GSLV Mark 3, which could take 4000 kg payload (as against the present capacity of 2200 kg) would be launched soon. Dr Radhakrishnan said that GSLV Mark 3 would reduce India's dependence on other countries in satellite launch. An experimental flight of GSLV-Mk 3 is planned to study its performance during the crucial atmospheric phase of the flight and here the cryogenic engine will not be activated.

"ISRO is planning its first developmental flight to put a satellite in the orbit by 2016. We are also developing high power 'semi-cryogenic engine' with

200-ton thrust. With these, we can move to the next level of launch vehicle to carry 6 tons to 10 tons. Our team is doing the 'phase zero study' for this purpose", said Dr Radhakrishnan proudly.

### **A Spiritual Person and an Artiste**

This internationally renowned rocket scientist is an artiste besides being spiritual. He visits the Tirupathi Temple, before and after the launch of every vehicle. "I have been visiting the temples since my childhood days. I have trekked to Sabarimala 52 times, starting from my childhood, and I have taken the harshest route to the Temple thrice",



said Dr Radhakrishnan humbly.

"I love reading spiritual books and I am deeply influenced by the Bhagwad Gita, which I read regularly. I believe in the power of God," he added.

Many people may not know that this rocket scientist is also a trained 'kathakali' artiste. He loves carnatic music and practises vocal music every day early morning, even in the midst of his tight schedule. He begins and ends his day listening to Carnatic music.

### **Remembering the Gurus**

Before signing off the telephonic conversation, Dr Radhakrishnan recollected his days with Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Dr Satish Dhawan and Dr U R Rao, the great architects of Indian Space Mission and remembered the inspiration he received from them. No doubt, the scientist, the spiritualist and the artiste in Dr Radhakrishnan has influenced in making him a great leader too.

PreSense congratulates Dr Radhakrishnan and his ISRO team for making India proud.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: January 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **“No deserving student should be deprived of higher education for want of funds” –**

**Dr K C Chakrabarty, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India**

In a freewheeling telephone interview with K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, Dr K C Chakrabarty, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India vehemently declares, “No deserving student should be deprived of higher education for want of funds”. Here is an edited excerpt:



**The 21<sup>st</sup> century is widely acclaimed as the knowledge century. What role will knowledge and education play in the development of India 2020?**

India has transformed from an agrarian to an industrial economy. From here, it has moved to service and now it is moving towards becoming a knowledge economy, where education is key. 55% of our population is below 25 years of age and 33% is less than 15 years old. As such, in 2020, the average age of our population will be 29, compared to 37 in China, 45 in Western Europe and 48 in Japan. If this population is trained and educated as per international standards, they will be equipped with skills that meet global requirements and this will present a great opportunity for the country.

**Statistics from the RBI website suggest that only 0.6% of the loan amount allocated to education is being utilised. Why is this?**

Only 10% of the population in India has access to bank credit. However, this amount is going up in leaps and bounds. It has grown from 6,800 crores in 2005 to 28,000 crores last year – nearly four times in the last four years. The number of education loan accounts is growing at the rate of three lakh per annum. As and when our penetration improves and education gets more professional, awareness will increase and more students will come forward to avail this opportunity. Once students pay back loans, they will become customers and such schemes will be encouraged.

**It has been generally observed that bank managers are reluctant to encourage education loans and many poor but deserving students,**

**especially from rural areas, do not find adequate support from the banking system in securing such loans. What steps are being taken to address this problem?**

I agree that there may be reluctance on the part of bank managers in allotting education loans. Perhaps they are not convinced of the viability and antecedents of such loans due to past experiences of people who may not have paid. Bank managers need to be conservative in giving loans. Therefore, in order to popularise education loans, banks need to perceive this product as a business. We need to create the necessary confidence in bank managers. The government can implement an insurance scheme for students who are not able to meet loan requirements. This will help to create confidence. Any deserving student, who has been unable to secure an education loan, needs to bring this to our notice. They can also write to the chief executive of banks, to nodal officers appointed at the RBI and even to me.

**Can you think of any aggressive campaign by the chairmen and CEOs of various banks for helping deserving students?**

Instead of the chairman, local branch managers should be involved for effective education loan campaigns.

**There have been complaints of banks charging a high rate of interest on education loans and demanding third party guarantee even for small loans of up to four lakh rupees. What is your opinion on such grievances?**

The rate of interest differs from bank to bank. Public sector banks have already been advised to provide loans at reasonable rates. In my view, reasonable rates should be no more than 12% as of today and most public sector banks are lending around this rate. It is important to understand that banks need to get money at this rate to recover the cost to the organisation.

**We have created various institutions like IDBI, NABARD and National Housing Bank to assist sectors like industry, agriculture and housing. In a similar vein, with the growing priority of education, is it possible to think of an institution like Vidya Development Bank of India to focus on this sector?**

We develop specialised institutions like IDBI for certain sectors because banks are not able to evaluate and formulate projects in these sectors. However, in education, no project needs to be prepared. Educational institutions make the projects and provide education and banks are only required to provide the finance – a normal business of the bank. Besides, the government already has institutions like the University Grants Commission and similar bodies that work towards developing education infrastructure and spreading education. As such, there is no need for a separate institution in this domain.

**Any words for students who are considering taking a bank loan?**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century can be India's century and students have a tremendous opportunity if education develops their skills; they acquire knowledge of a world standard and work hard. We at RBI have tried to ensure that no deserving student is deprived of higher education because of a lack of funding. Once students avail their loans, they should ensure their success and pay back the loan amount. This will motivate bank managers to extend loans to hundreds of other students. All the best!

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense.  
Source: January 2010 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **“Greed is the Outcome of Materialistic Society” – Dr Subramanian Swamy**

Dr Subramanian Swamy, President of the Janata Party and a well-known



Indian politician is known for his perseverance. Whatever the issue that he takes up, he pursues it to its logical end. Though many media houses have been talking about the current 2G scam, it was only through the sustained approach of Dr Swamy through the judicial route that the culprits were arrested. In an exclusive interview with K. Srinivasan, for PreSense and PodUniversal, Dr Swamy shared his insights about the qualities of perseverance. Excerpts:

**You are known for your perseverance. Whatever issue you take up, you take it to its logical end. In your opinion, how can our youngsters imbibe the qualities of perseverance?**

If you are brought up in the Hindu tradition, you learn that you have only the freedom of action. Output of your efforts is not directly proportional to the efforts. Sometimes, you put in lot of effort and get nothing; sometimes, with least efforts, you get a lot. The same is described in the Bhagawad Gita as the Law of Karma. Everyone should pursue the goal, putting its best efforts without the anxiety and stress about the outcome. If you understand and develop this attitude, 'perseverance' comes. If you get disheartened, perseverance evaporates. Generally, people are averse to taking risks. You cannot achieve anything without taking risks. When you take the risk, there is the possibility of failure too. Risk-taking attitude should be developed. Perseverance is the amalgam of multiple intelligences like emotional intelligence, social intelligence, moral intelligence and spiritual intelligence. India is known for spiritual intelligence, which connects to cosmos.

Perseverance comes when you realise that you are an instrument in the hands of the 'divine' and what you are doing is only the 'duty'.

**Whenever we see you on the television, you look very cool, even during apparently tense moments. How do you manage this?**

That is what is called 'suppression of ego'. Tension occurs when you think that you are responsible for the good or bad things that happen. Anybody, who thinks that he is only the instrument in this whole thing and that he is doing only his duty, will never be tensed.

The interview can be watched at

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_JoQZeRmsw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_JoQZeRmsw)**

*Source: February 2011 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Astrology Can Never Go Wrong - Shiva

*M S Shivakumar (40), who researches and practises astrology as his passion, is a Learning & Development professional. He has served at the top level in L&D department of Fortune 500 companies across the globe. Shiva, a highly qualified person and alumnus of many prestigious institutions including IIM, strongly believes that the principle of astrology is to "Make things Happen" rather than "Watch things happen or wonder what happened". In an exclusive interview with K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, Shiva shared some interesting aspects of astrology. Excerpts:*

### What is the history of Astrology? Who first developed this concept and when?

It is very difficult to say when the concept of astrology was developed in India. Vedas and Upanishads talk about the planetary movements and their impact on the human being. Many *Rishis* have contributed to this knowledge. Even the Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have references about astrology. Astrology dates back to 6000 to 10000 years. Vedic Astrology is also known as *Jyotisha*.

In ancient days, this knowledge was passed on to the disciples through *Guru Parampara*. It was not available to the common men, to prevent misuse of this concept. In those days, there were experts, who advised the kings while taking important decisions, based on astrology.

There are three major categories in Astrology. (1) *Siddhantha* (*Panchanga* based), (2) *Samhitha* (for kings and their kingdoms) and (3) *Hora* (time-based prediction of events).

“

There are three major categories in Astrology.

- (1) Siddhantha (Panchanga based),
- (2) Samhitha (for Kings and their Kingdom) and
- (3) Hora (time based prediction of events).

- M S Shivakumar



*Parasara Maharishi* conducted a detailed study from the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and scriptures, written thousands of years ago. He filtered and consolidated the concept of astrology. Several schools of thought came up later. The *Parasara* school of thought is mainly followed. *Jaimini, Saravali, Jathaka Parijatha, Saravatha Chinthamani* were the main schools of thought that came up later.

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**What is the basic concept of astrology? How is astronomy used in astrology?**

Anything that is related to the 'out of earth' atmosphere is known as astronomy. The Study of the connection between the Celestial (study of sky) and the Terrestrial (study of earth) is astrology. It is purely based on the metaphysical principle, using the mathematical relationship. Astrology involves a lot of mathematics. Mathematical relationship is needed to understand and express the quality of energy of planets (sound, shape, angles, numbers, etc.)

Planets and stars emit energy of different strengths at a variety of instances. These energy and its frequencies are the cause of the creation, sustenance and ending of events in one's life.

Astrology involves 27 stars, 9 planets and 12 *Bhavas* (houses). To predict an event that can occur in future, we may need to analyse 2916 data points for accuracy ( $27 \times 9 \times 12$ ), which will let us know the influence and impact of planets and stars on an event.

If a person starts learning astrology at the age of 8, dedicating 8 hours per day for 800 years continuously, he will learn only one-sixteenth of astrology. It involves a lot of cosmic intelligence and calculation of planetary movement.

There are three levels of consciousness – simple consciousness (5th sense), self consciousness (6th sense) and third cosmic consciousness (7th sense). Each consciousness can speak to each other.

The planets in the universe communicate with each other through light, heat, rays, neutrinos, x-rays, etc. It has a huge impact on the human neural network. To understand cosmic consciousness, one needs cosmic intelligence.

If you see the astrologers, they normally prepare two charts (*Rasi* and *Navamsa*), based on the date of birth, time and place. They are called Divisional Charts D1 and D9. These charts indicate the planetary positions at the time of birth of a person. We can make 144 such charts to understand deeply. The charts can be prepared from D1 to D144.

### **How Astrology Works?**

There are three outcomes – event, experience and environment. Events are like occurrence of job, wedding, position, health, wealth, etc. Experience is emotions and feelings, derived out of an event. Environment is the boundary of the limitation within which a person's life operates.

**Potential and Manifestation** are the two wheels of astrology. A person may have great knowledge about business or may be highly talented. The potential of the person can be so high that he can make things happen and can become rich. But in reality, if you check, he would not be able to produce success or achieve growth. That is called manifestation.

One planet determines the skill and another planet determines the results. One may have the potential, but if not manifested in reality, it is of no use. In order to make use of the best time and increase the success rate, the branches of astrology like *Kaala*, *Ganitha*, *Jaataka*, *Prasna*, *Murtha* and *Nimitta* help.

**Vidhi, Madhi and Gadhi** - *Vidhi* is fate, what is shown in the chart. *Madhi* can be utilised to escape *Vidhi*'s difficulties or challenges. *Gadhi* is known as Surrender to Almighty.

Bucke, a Canadian psychiatrist, says "cosmic consciousness is an interconnected way of seeing things, which is more of an intuitive knowing than it is a factual understanding. Astrology is not just a belief but knowledge about belief.

Action + confidence + faith = belief

It is like cautioning and helping a person to achieve maximum potential to manifestation.

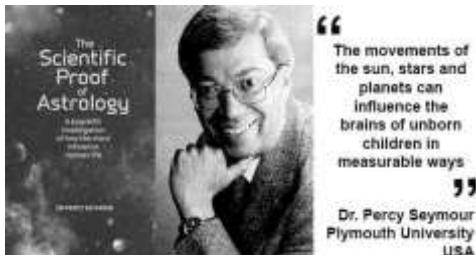
Astrology can never go wrong. An astrologer can go wrong.

### **Is Astrology a Science or an Art?**

According to me, astrology is pure science. Today, astrology is seen as the 'Law of Possibility' rather than the 'Law of Accuracy'. Dr. Percy Seymour conducted research on the Mechanism of Astrology in Plymouth University (USA). He concluded that planets move like tidal tugs; they interact with each other, and they have an impact on human lives. He also claimed in his

book titled "The Scientific Proof of Astrology" that the movements of the sun, the stars and the planets can influence the brains of unborn children in measurable ways. Several researches on astrology have been initiated in various universities across the world. There are scientists who do not consider astrology as science. Everything need not be classified under science. I feel the opposite of science is not pseudo science, myth, spirituality or belief. I call it 'unexplored science'.

Science and spiritual belief co-existed for ages. Even today, we see many scientists who believe in spirituality, culture and values. People who are rational are also spiritual. It is not either science or culture, rational or spiritual. It is a combination of both.



By positioning ourselves on both sides, we may be able to understand the subject better. A single-sided perspective will only increase the blind spots. Proven science can only work within limited and restricted grounds. Studies are still being carried out in the unexplored areas of supernovae explosions, gamma ray bursts, and cosmic microwave background radiation. Although it consumes time, we need scholars to conduct more study to bring in evidence, logic and witness behind astrology and get the fullest benefit to mankind and take this subject to a larger audience for more fruitful findings.

### **How Western Astrology Differs from Indian Astrology?**

Western astrology is sun sign-based. Indian astrology is moon-based. Vedic astrology is the oldest. All other schools of thoughts, whether Indian or Western, are derived from Vedic Astrology. Astrology is a wonderful science that provides guidance to maximise growth and success and minimise loss or distress. It helps you to be at right place at right time with the right people, with the right health and the right intention, guided by the right *Guru* or God Almighty. Make use of this science and be benefited! Shivakumar can be reached at [msshiva@yahoo.com](mailto:msshiva@yahoo.com)

*Source: Jan 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## An Evening With Some Earthly Stars

It was an evening to remember when the Editorial Team met up with some



**(Left to Right) Noorul Hasbiya, D.Gopi, D.Yukesh Babu, K.Chandru, S.Premkumar, Ranjith, S.Sangeetha, Samuel (in front)**

students from various Government Schools in the city of Chennai. These students were recently recognised and awarded for their achievements in their respective areas of

proficiency. The awards function was organised by 'You Are Loved', a local NGO

(Non-Governmental

Organisation) that supports education and allied causes. All these students hail from economically challenged domestic backgrounds but their spirit, achievements and dreams soar in spite of these challenges.

The children, who were students of Standard 10 and 12 classes, turned up smart and spruced in their school uniforms. They all had a sparkle in their eyes and a bounce in their gait, reflecting the confidence and enthusiasm they emanated. As we sat down to chat with them, each one of them shared their dreams and aspirations with us.

We generally tend to look for talents in high-end schools. We rarely expect to find talents and jewels in the lesser known Government or Corporation schools. The Editorial Team wanted to showcase the talents from unexpected quarters, and meet such talented children and motivate them. Interestingly, the Editorial team returned home after being motivated and inspired by these children instead.

Sangeetha is a true embodiment of girl empowerment. Even as a pavement dweller, her housemaid-mother as a single parent, and her elder sister motivate her in her studies. Sangeetha is an ace footballer and represented India (the sole representative from the state of Tamil Nadu) in an 8-member team at the Homeless World Cup at Glasgow, Scotland in July 2016. India won the 5th place among 46 countries that participated. Sangeetha shared her experience about how dreams were dreamt to make them happen. She said she used to run out to the streets with her pavement friends at the sound of a passing aeroplane in flight, and wave out to it, hoping the

passengers on board, would see her. Last July, when she arrived at the airport to board the aircraft on her way to Glasgow, she choked with



**Sangeetha, third from left, with the Indian Team**

emotion as she realised that she herself was boarding one of them to fly out. We were curious if she remembered to wave down from her window seat in the aeroplane. She smiled in response. Sangeetha is also a long-distance runner, a long-jumper and a shot-putter.

Chandru won his award for his overall consistent academic performance. He aspires to be a pilot, with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the late former President of India as his inspiration. Coming from a home with a single parent, Chandru helps support his family by delivering newspapers at doorsteps every morning before school. He is also skilled in masonry and works during holidays.

Ranjith Kumar, recognised for his discipline and outstanding academic performance, is a topper in his school. He aspires to be in the Indian Police Service (IPS), aiming to provide protection to women and senior citizens, who form the vulnerable section of the society today. Ranjith comes from a poor family where his father squanders as an alcoholic. His mother, his brother and his uncles are his support. His motivator is his school teacher who drives him to dream and work towards the dream. Ranjith is active in the sports field, and plays volleyball.

Premkumar aspires to be a scientist with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He has keen interest in robotics and he won the prize for the second best project in robotics at a national level science exhibition held in the city of Bengaluru. After an outstanding performance in the Standard 10 examinations, he is striving to beat the record of the previous year's state top ranker, who is his namesake. Premkumar's role models are Subramania Bharati, the Indian writer, poet, Indian independence activist and social reformer, and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Noorul is a talented oratorical champion and essay writer. She has been a consistent topper in academics in her school. She hopes to repeat her performance in the forthcoming Standard 12 public examinations. Nurul aspires to become a District Collector as she dreams of promoting education

among girls, just as it has brought her the empowering spirit to dream and achieve. She wants to be the 'Malala' of India.

Gopi is another school topper in the Standard 10 public examinations. He wants to study so that one day he will acquire a doctorate. He dreams of working in the Indian Administrative Service and dedicate himself in the field of education because he is well aware that education is a powerful tool in life. Gopi shared his life episode of how he returned to school after dropping out for about 6 months due to an attack of typhoid fever. The fever kept him in bed for three months when he was studying in Standard 7. Having been an outstanding student during his entire school years, he felt embarrassed to get back to school after the break and suffer a possible dip in his academic record. He therefore went to work as a vegetable vendor. In the evenings, while he worked on the accounts for the day, his neighbour flower vendor would observe him, impressed with his handwriting, his intelligence and his adeptness with mathematics. He cajoled Gopi to return to school. Gopi who was aware of the dire financial state in his family, approached his aunt for support. Gopi soon returned to school to join the class in standard 8. There was no looking back thereafter. Gopi is also a good orator and debater and has won several prizes.

Yugesh Babu has been a consistently outstanding academic performer. He has held himself high as a role model both in school and at home. This is especially worth mentioning as he comes from a drug and violence prone neighbourhood at home. Yogesh has soared above the challenges of financial crunch at home, a physically challenged father and a violence prone neighbourhood. Yogesh dares to envision being successful in life while maintaining his integrity, and help his family out from the depressing environment. He is keen to learn computer technology.



**Bharathi with her mother**

Samuel is the youngest in the group, being a student of Standard 8. As the youngest recipient of the award, he stands out as a promising candidate for proficiency and academic achievement. He was recognised for his talent in the fine arts, especially oratory, singing and dancing. However, he aspires to

be a scientist like his role model, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Alternatively, he hopes to be of service to the society as a doctor.

Bharathi is an academically outstanding student. She stood first in her school in the public examinations for Standard 10. She will soon be appearing in the public examinations for Standard 12. She was recognised for the award for her leadership skills. She too comes from a single-parent home, with her mother working as a sweeper in the school she studies in. Bharathi has outstanding oratorical skills that won her a place in the final competition of a state-level competition held earlier this year, organised by the Rotary Club with the Corporation of Chennai. She reached the finals from among 2000 student participants. She thus won herself an educational trip to Malaysia. Bharathi aspires to be in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) with an ambition to help eradicate poverty.

The Editorial Team met these students in the premises of the Chennai Higher Secondary School in Shenoy Nagar, Chennai. Not surprisingly, all the children considered Dr Abdul Kalam a role model. When asked about the current 'Demonetisation' initiative of the Government of India, all the children uniformly welcomed the initiative and deplored black money holders as enemies of the society. However, they felt that they were inconvenienced for want of smaller denominations, which they were willing to put up with for the sake of the nation.

Jesse Jackson, an American Civil Rights Activist and a former candidate for the US Democratic Party presidential nomination, once said about himself, "I was born in a slum but the slum wasn't born in me". A similar spirit embodies these children who hail from challenging homes and backgrounds, and have soared to prove themselves and stand out like the stars that sparkle in the sky. As the line from a popular song goes, "Let these stars not get lost on this earth."

*Susan Koshy, Editor*

*Source: November 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Sivakasi – Pride of India – The Inspiring Story of Villagers Who Converted Challenges to Opportunities**

When we fire crackers during Diwali and other festival days or when we use a match box to light a candle or a stove or when we receive New Year diaries and calendars, we seldom recognise that these products were made in a small South Indian town Sivakasi, nearly 200 kilometres from the southern tip of our country. Presently more than 95% of fireworks and crackers and 90% of safety match boxes used by India are produced and supplied by Sivakasi.

### **Looking Back**

Nearly 90 years ago, the residents of this small village of 7 square kilometre area were entirely dependent on agriculture, without any rivers in the vicinity. When the monsoon failed, times were tough for them. A near zero literacy coupled with economic backwardness made their lives miserable, since they were not required anywhere.



Two great young visionaries from Sivakasi – Ayya Nadar and Shanmuga Nadar went to Calcutta and learnt the techniques of sulphur match. They started making the first sulphur match in 1923 at Sivakasi. The sulphur match would burn when struck against a rough surface.

Then they started making the present form of 'safety match' in 1932. This is the humble beginning of the 'Journey of Sivakasi', which was described as 'Kutti Japan' (meaning Little Japan) by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the later years. Sivakasi has now become the hub of the fireworks industry in the world, second only to Liuyang, the Chinese fireworks city.

When all the centres of India display 'No vacancy board', Sivakasi welcomes uneducated and unskilled labour and train them.

### **Sivakasi – a Brief Profile**

Presently, 956 factories operate with approved licences, of which nearly 550 factories have the licence of the Central Government to handle more than

2000 kilograms of chemicals at a given time. It is estimated that nearly Rs.4000 crore (Rs.40 billion) of fireworks/crackers are marketed through these licensed factories every year.

Nearly 25% of the fireworks factories also produce 'matches'. Since the process is less risky, the licensing formalities are easier. Nearly 5000 units produce 95% of the safety matches required for India. They also export nearly Rs.400 crore (Rs.4 billion) worth of match boxes.



Interestingly, both fireworks and match industries do not require much water and electricity. They are all done manually. These industries enjoy the required climatic condition too.

In addition to handling chemicals, several jobs like paper tube making (for crackers), printing of labels, packing materials, etc. provide large-scale employment opportunity to the local people. In order to print their own labels, the industrialists purchased printing machines and developed the capacity to print diaries, calendars and text books. Twenty years ago, Sivakasi was catering to nearly 80% of the country's printing job, Nowadays, due to technological growth, Sivakasi contributes to only 15 to 20% of the nation's printing job. Today, nearly 1500 printing machines provide direct employment to 20,000 persons.

60% of the production of fireworks and crackers are used during the *Deepawali* season and the rest are used across the country during other occasions like *Holi*, weddings, political meetings, etc. throughout the year. 4480 permanent shops and more than one lakh (100,000) temporary shops (for Diwali season) across India have been licensed to sell fireworks and crackers. Fireworks/crackers are manufactured throughout the year.

Considering the production, ancillary jobs, transport, retailing, etc., Sivakasi provides employment opportunity to 1 million people directly and indirectly in the neighbourhood and 10 million people across India.

## Challenges

Though the Government has stipulated strict conditions for this hazardous industry, it is reported that many people due to their greed violate the

norms in order to increase production. Many people produce fireworks and crackers in unlicensed premises, flouting safety methods. This leads to accidents. During the past 16 years since 2001, 350 deaths have been reported due to accidents, with an average of 20 deaths per annum. Considering the nature of this industry involving dangerous chemicals and engagement of nearly one million people, the death of 20 persons appears negligible, but it could have been totally avoided. However, a huge hype is made about the mishaps in this industry as if this is the only dangerous industry in the country.

Some Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) funded by some foreign countries create an impression among the people across the country that compel them to boycott fireworks and crackers due to deaths, child labour and environment pollution in this industry.

Our Editorial Team visited Sivakasi in the last week of March 2017 and interacted with various owners, labourers, Government officials and people. The Team also attended the awareness programme organised by the Government jointly with The Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorges Manufacturers' Association (TANFAMA), the apex body of licensed manufacturers. During this event, the District Collector confirmed that Sivakasi has 'zero' child labour.

Around 20 years ago when the industry was growing, children were used as labour in the industry. Everybody, including the Government officials now confirm that there is no child labour in the district anymore. When we visited the factories, we too did not see any child labour. "Some forces are working against Sivakasi's growth. They silently indulge in destroying the native culture of this country and the festivals. They first created an impression in the world about child labour in Sivakasi. Even the international media like BBC visited Sivakasi and confirmed that there was no child labour", said Dr P Ganesan, Spokesperson of TANFAMA. Dr Ganesan himself is the owner of a leading brand 'Vinayaka Sony Fireworks' and has more than 900 sheds.

Although Chinese crackers are prohibited in India due to their usage of banned chemical potassium chlorate, they are still imported on a large scale by unscrupulous traders hiding them under imported toys with the connivance of some of the Government officials. These Chinese crackers flood the market during the *Diwali* season and are sold at very low price,

even though they are banned. These crackers are not safe for use in hot countries like India. TANFAMA has been taking up this issue with successive Governments. During the past two years, these imports have reduced but they have still not been arrested completely.



**Dr P Ganesan**

Some of the NGOs have now started taking up the issue of noise pollution. The industry has regulated itself to produce crackers of sound volume less than 125dB. The sound level is managed by proper mixing of chemicals in a prescribed ratio.

After the *Diwali* festival of 2016, the Delhi High Court banned fire crackers in Delhi NCR alleging 'air pollution'. Later, a study by IIT Kanpur and images of NASA disclosed that the air pollution was not mainly due to the fire crackers, but it was due to mass burning of agricultural waste in the neighbouring region. This mass burning has affected Lahore too, a city which did not celebrate *Diwali*.

### Quality Control

After much research, some of the leading manufacturers have introduced



**NewYork Times report and  
NASA image of smog recorded 5 days after Diwali**

'fancy fireworks' to provide a variety of safe experiences with fireworks for the consumers. A majority of the factories has its own R&D set up, laboratories, quality control mechanism, etc. They also test and verify the noise level of the finished products to ensure that they are well within the permitted level. Our team witnessed the testing of the quality at every stage

right from raw materials to the finished product. This facility is available at major factories. The small licensed factories do not have this facility. Some of the major factories offer their testing service facilities to small licensed factories.

Some people produce fireworks and crackers illegally in unlicensed premises. They do not have the proper facility for checking the quality of raw materials and end products. The poor quality products are pushed into the market at low prices through second level traders. All the fatal accidents happen only because of these unlicensed productions. Due to corruption and political influences, they could not be controlled. The mistakes committed by these illegal producers tarnish the image of Sivakasi.

### **Social Responsibility**

“In 1971, Sivakasi had only 60 licensed factories with 1500 sheds. Today, we have 956 licensed factories with 40,000 sheds. In spite of all challenges, people like to enjoy *Diwali* and other festivals with fireworks, which is the livelihood for more than one million people. At the time of Independence, we had almost zero literacy in our area. As



**A view of the sheds and neem trees**

part of our social responsibility, major brands of Sivakasi run 7 Engineering Colleges, 4 Arts & Science Colleges, 2 Polytechnics and 15 Higher Secondary Schools where more than 20,000 students get the opportunity to study at low cost. We provide fee concession and scholarships to the children of our employees. Many of the new generation boys and girls study abroad too. Though we may run the risk of shortage of labour in future, we want our town to be positioned in the global map”, said Dr Ganesan proudly.

Generally, all the industries in India offer a one-month bonus to their employees once a year. Here at Sivakasi, all the factories give bonus amounting to five and half months' salary twice a year, to coincide with *Diwali* and other local temple festival.

To provide a cool and healthy climate, all the factories plant neem trees in their premises. “We have around 5000 neem trees in our own Sony Group factories. Even small factories have around 200 neem trees in their premises”, Dr Ganesan added.

### **Towards Sivakasi V2.0 – Vision 2025**

Since the industry involves the livelihood of one million people throughout the year, the Government has to ensure that all illegal and unlicensed producers, who cause harm to the reputation of the industry are dealt with severely. Dr Ganesan says that if GST is pegged at a minimum level of 12%, even the unlicensed producers have to be brought under the legal ambit.

Safety awareness programmes should be held regularly without waiting for accidents. Wherever possible, mechanisation can be introduced. With many technology institutions around, the new generation should strive to bring creativity and innovation with better safety measures.

The nation salutes the hardworking and vibrant people of Sivakasi, who were economically and educationally most backward in 1947 and have now converted their challenges into an opportunity to position themselves in the global map.

PreSense is confident of seeing Sivakasi V2.0 by 2025.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: March 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## MS, The Immaculate Voice



Madurai Shanmugavadivu Subbulakshmi or M.S. Subbulakshmi, the *Swara Ganga* or 'Voice of Ganga', (Ganga being India's most sacred and lifeline river), was a world-renowned vocalist of Carnatic songs and *bhajans* (devotional songs). Born on September 16, 1916 in the town of Madurai in the Southern state of Tamil Nadu, M.S. Subbulakshmi was fondly known by several names, the most popular being MS. As a child, back home in Madurai town, she was Kunjamma or Kunju to her family. Her unique voice and rendering of music won her several accolades as 'Queen of Music', 'Nightingale of India', 'The Eighth Tone of Music' and 'Goddess of the Perfect Note'.

MS was recognised both at the national and international arenas. In 1998, she was the first musician ever to be awarded the *Bharat Ratna*, India's highest civilian honour. India had also released a stamp as a tribute to her in 2005, a year after her death.

Earlier in 1974, she was the first Indian musician to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award, which was considered Asia's Nobel Prize. The citation to the Award read, "Exacting purists acknowledge Srimati M.S. Subbulakshmi as the leading exponent of classical and semi-classical songs in the Carnatic tradition of South India'. In 2013, Google, the American multinational technology company that specialises in internet-related services and products, paid tribute to her by dedicating a colourful doodle on her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. The doodle illustrates a lady singer holding a *Tambora*, accompanied by other Indian instruments as a *Ghatam*, a *Tabla* and a *Mridangam*.



**Stamp issued by the United Nations to mark MS' birth centenary**

However, MS' fame surpasses these awards. Her voice and musical prowess reached and touched listeners across religious, regional and national borders. During the India Independence movement, MS participated in it by using her voice and her singing to make a statement and express her solidarity. Although MS was born with a golden voice, she worked hard, both as a child from an

impoverished background, and as a prodigy in music. She worked hard to cultivate her voice so that her God-given gift blossomed to its fullest. Incidentally, her vocal grooming was facilitated by her being born into a family of musicians. Hailing from the traditional community, her grandmother was a violinist and her mother, Shanmukhavadi Ammal was a veena player and a stage performer. MS underwent rigorous voice and music training from an early age under established gurus as Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer for Carnatic music, and Pandit Narayanrao Vyas for Hindustani music. She was also able to hone her knowledge of Carnatic music through her regular interactions with exponents as Karaikudi Sambasiva Iyer, Mazhavarayanendal Subbarama Bhagavathar and Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar.



**97th birthday - Google doodle**

With such rigorous and refining training, MS did her first performance on stage and recording at a tender age of 11 years. There was no looking back for her thereafter. She moved to Madras (now Chennai) and did a few films, both singing and acting in them. But after a short uneventful stint with the films, MS concentrated on her singing talent.

MS went on to become a legendary vocalist in the classical Carnatic music, popularising the traditional Indian classical music among the people across India, who were enthralled by her voice and rendering. Touching the musical interest of many across the world, MS was regarded the cultural ambassador of India, bringing the richness in the nuances of Carnatic music to the world, through her international concerts. She continued to perform till 1997), when she lost her husband, Kalki Sadasivam. MS was 81 years of age then.

M.S.Subbulakshmi died in Chennai on December 11, 2004 when she was 88 years of age, and was laid to rest with full State honours. The then President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam visited Chennai to personally pay homage to her. In his condolence message, he said, "She was born in music and lived in music. In the end, she changed to become the music of God. The greatest good that she has done to the country is that through her music, she has made us all good human beings." Such was the reverence she enjoyed from the people, both Indians and foreigners alike, dignitaries and common citizens alike, music exponents and amateurs alike.

On her centenary birthday in 2016, the United Nations (UN) honoured MS posthumously with the release of a special stamp. This recognition by UN came as no surprise as she is fervently remembered for her stupendous vocal rendering of a song of peace and hope called the *Maitreem Bhajatha* at the UN General Assembly in 1966, on the invitation of the then Secretary General, U Thant. The lyrics were composed by Shri Kanchi Sankarachaya himself.

M.S.Subbulakshmi was a rare gem, a once-in-a-lifetime seen heavenly star that studded the world with her devout and perfect rendering of Sanskrit hymns. MS, in her humility, attributed it to the Divine, saying, "Indian music is oriented solely to the end of divine communion. If I have done something in this respect, it is entirely due to the grace of the Almighty who has chosen my humble self as a tool."

#### **Snippets:**

- M.S.Subbulakshmi was known for her Kanjeevaram sarees which she wore in the traditional Indian Brahmin style. A particular shade of blue called the '*mayil kazhuthu kalar*' became popularly known as 'MS blue'. It is reported that in commemoration of her birth centenary year, handloom silk saree cooperatives re-introduced the 'MS blue' sarees.
- The signature 'MS look' was her *blue jager* diamond nose studs, a necklace of emeralds, her hair put up in a bun and adorned with fresh jasmine flowers, and red vermillion and ash marks on her forehead.
- MS, during her childhood, practised hard to train her voice. Her typical day would begin early at 6.00am, and after a South Indian breakfast of *idli* or *dosa* with filtered coffee, she would practise her singing, pitching her voice in tune with the *Tambora*, which is a long-necked Indian instrument used in recitals to provide a harmonic drone. Even after her practice session, she would wander around the house, singing, and hours later, she would still be in tune with the *Tambora*, she had pitched her voice in tune with.

*By Susan Koshy, Editor*

*Source: Sep 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

## The Nobel Prize, The Most Coveted Prize on Earth, Awarded for "The Greatest Benefit to Mankind"

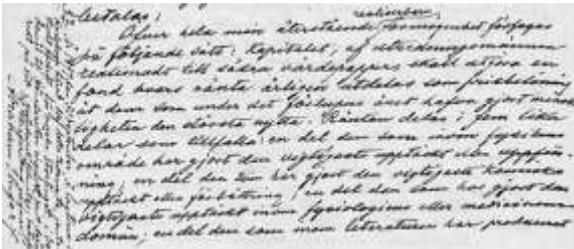
On 27<sup>th</sup> November 1895, a year before his death, Alfred Nobel signed the famous will which would implement some of the goals to which he had devoted much of his life. Nobel stipulated in his will that most of his estate of more than SEK (Swedish Krona) 31 million (today approximately SEK 1,702 million) should be converted into a fund and invested in "safe securities". The income from the investments was to be "distributed annually in the form of prizes to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind." This prize is the Nobel Prize.

The Nobel Prize was first awarded in 1901 on the fifth death anniversary of Alfred Nobel. The award is since being given on an annual basis under a number of categories, in recognition of advances in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. There are five Nobel Committees responsible for the selection of the awardees for the Nobel Prize, one for each Nobel Prize. Four of these Committees for physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine and literature are in Sweden, while the fifth Nobel Committee for the Nobel Peace Prize is in Norway.



**Alfred Nobel (1833 - 1896)**

Physics was the category for the prize, which Alfred Nobel mentioned first in



**Alfred Nobel's will**

his will. At the end of the nineteenth century, many people considered physics as the foremost of the sciences, and perhaps Nobel saw it this way as well. His own research

was also closely tied to physics.

At the Awards' ceremony, each recipient or laureate, receives a gold medal, a diploma and a sum of money, which is decided by the Nobel Foundation. As of now, each prize is worth US \$1.2 million. The Nobel Laureates take centre-stage in Stockholm on 10th December every year, when they receive the Nobel Medal, the Nobel Diploma and a document confirming the Nobel Prize amount, from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. In Oslo, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates receive their Nobel Peace Prize from the Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee in the presence of King Harald V of Norway. An important part of the ceremony is the presentation of lectures by the Nobel Laureates. In Stockholm, the lectures are presented days before the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony. In Oslo, the Nobel Laureates deliver their lectures during the Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony.

### **The Selection Process**

Nomination forms are sent by the Nobel Committee to about 3,000 individuals, usually in the month of September of the year before the prizes are awarded. These individuals are generally all the living Nobel laureates and prominent academics working in the relevant area, globally. The deadline for the return of the nomination forms is 31<sup>st</sup> January of the year of the award. No person can nominate himself for the Nobel Prize.



**Nobel Medal**

The Nobel Committee nominates about 300 potential laureates from these forms and any additional names. The nominees are not publicly named, nor are they told that they are being considered for the prize. All the nomination records for a prize are sealed for 50 years from the year of the awarding of the prize. The nominee, if his name is leaked, will be dropped from being considered for the prize.

The Nobel Committee then prepares a report reflecting the advice of experts in the relevant fields. This, along with the list of the preliminary candidates, is submitted to the prize-awarding institutions. The institutions

meet to choose the laureate or laureates in each field by a majority vote. Their decision, which cannot be appealed, is announced immediately after the vote.

A maximum of three laureates and two different works may be selected per award. Except for the Peace Prize, which can be awarded to institutions, the awards can only be given to individuals. The Nobel prizes are not awarded posthumously.

The 2017 Nobel Prizes were awarded in recognition of the following:

<b>Category</b>	<b>In Recognition of</b>
Physics	For detecting gravitational waves
Chemistry	For developing cryo-microscopy
Physiology/Medicine	For discovering the mechanism of human circadian rhythm
Literature	For writing novels of great emotional force
Economics	For contributions in understanding behavioural economics
Peace	For drawing attention to the catastrophic consequences of use of nuclear weapons

So far 923 laureates have been awarded the Nobel Prize since 1901. Among them, only 12 are Indians, even though India has a population of 132 crore (1.32 billion), out of a global population of 760 crore (7.60 billion).

It is hoped that the new education policy of the Government of India will help in grooming potential Nobel Prize Laureates in the near future.

*By Dr R. Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor*

*Source: November 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Section II: Spotlights from History**

## First Meeting of Narendranath (Vivekananda) with Guruji

How many of us are aware that William Hastie, a relatively less featured individual of the British-Indian era, is the person behind Narendranath's (original name of Swami Vivekananda) transformation by motivating him to meet Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa?

### Revered William Hastie



Reverend William Hastie

Photo courtesy: The Hindu

Scotland-born William Hastie, after distinguishing himself in physics and mathematics, pursued his studies in philosophy and divinity in Germany and Holland. Since he was not interested in priesthood, he received the licence from the Church of Scotland to teach abroad. In 1878, he joined as the principal of the 'General Assembly's Institution' (now called the Scottish Church College, Kolkata).

After joining this college, Hastie restructured the Department of Philosophy.

The scholastic reputation of Principal Hastie attracted Narendranath to join this college in 1881. William Hastie's simple lifestyle attracted his students.

### State of Trance or Spiritual Ecstasy

One day, Reverend William Hastie was discussing the poem, "Excursion" written by poet William Wordsworth, in the class where Narendranath was present. He was explaining how the poet fell into a state of 'trance' (spiritual ecstasy) when experiencing the sublime beauty of nature. Hastie suggested to the students to meet Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, a priest at Dakshineswar (Kali Temple), who had attained the status of 'trance'.

**Meeting of Narendranath with Sri Ramakrishna**

The 19-year-old Narendra was excited about this suggestion. He immediately met Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa in December 1881. He had a volley of questions for him. This meeting of two great souls became the turning point in the spiritual history of India.

After failing to get satisfactory answers of real time experience from other people, Narendranath questioned Sri Ramakrishna, "Have you seen God?" Sri Ramakrishna spontaneously responded, "Not only have I seen God but I can show Him to you too. I see Him more intensely than I see you".

This conversation influenced the mind of Narendra in that historic moment and he surrendered himself completely to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. This is the beginning of the spiritual journey of Narendranath, who later became Swami Vivekananda.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: July 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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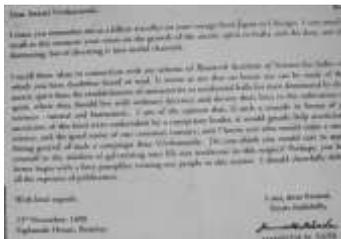
## Indian Institute of Science – Swami Vivekananda's Vision, Executed by Jamshedji Tata

India is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Swami Vivekananda's birth. He is a great source of inspiration to the Indian youth. From this issue for another 12 months, PreSense will bring out interesting episodes from the life of Swami Vivekananda to inspire the readers.

Many Indians may not know that Swami Vivekananda was not only a great spiritual leader, but also a visionary for promoting science. In 1893, when Jamshedji Tata and Swamiji were travelling together in a ship from Japan to USA, Tata told Swamiji that he was going to USA to bring the steel industry to British India. Swamiji blessed Tata for his venture and suggested that the steel industry consists of two components viz. (1) science of steel and (2) manufacturing of steel. Besides bringing the manufacturing technology, Swamiji suggested to Tata to develop the 'science of steel' in India itself.

Visionary Tata took Swamiji's advice very seriously. From that day, Tata started visualising both the steel industry and a world-class Science Research Institute in India.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1898, Tata wrote a personal letter to Swamiji, recalling their conversation on the ship and requested him to be the captain of the new Science Institute and guide the initiative. Since Swamiji was busy in the setting up of the Ramakrishna Mutt, he could not accept this invitation. Swamiji passed away in 1902. However, Tata continued the mission of establishing a Science Institute at Bangalore, donating a part of his property for the purpose. Jamshedji Tata too passed away in 1904. His successors took the initiative forward and launched the Indian Institute of Science known as Tata Institute at Bangalore in 1909.



The Tata Institute continues as a world class Science Research Institute, symbolising the vision of two great sons of India, Swami Vivekananda and Jamshedji Tata.

*Source: January 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Interesting Facts and Unknown People Behind Swami Vivekananda's Visit to Chicago

### Swami Vivekananda's Visit to Ramnad

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



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

### Decision at Kanyakumari

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



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

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

### **Support by the Madras Students**

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

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



After Swami Vivekananda's Chicago speech, he became very popular in India. After touring America and Europe for four years, he returned to India

via Ramnad and Madras, as a mark of gratitude to the people who had encouraged him to go to Chicago.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1897, he returned to India by a steamer from Sri Lanka. As he was about to land at Pamban, Bhaskara Sethupathy, the King of Ramnad, who was waiting with his entourage, gave him a royal welcome. He reverentially bowed his head and offered it as a step for Vivekananda to land from the boat as Vivekananda was returning to Motherland after five years. But, Swamiji tactfully avoided by jumping from the boat onto the land. Since the king was kneeling down in this place to receive Swamiji, this place is now known as 'Kundukal', in Tamil, meaning 'kneeling down'. A memorial is also erected in this place to mark the historic landing of Swamiji after his visit to Chicago, successfully establishing himself as the Spiritual Ambassador of India.



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

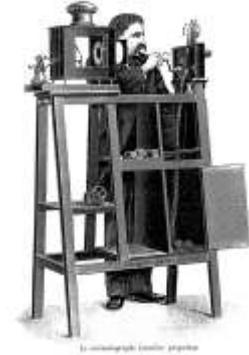
Later he erected a victory pillar of 25 feet height with the Upanishad expression Satyameva Jayate to commemorate the success of Swami Vivekananda at Chicago.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: March 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Jai Ho – Indian Cinema hits Century



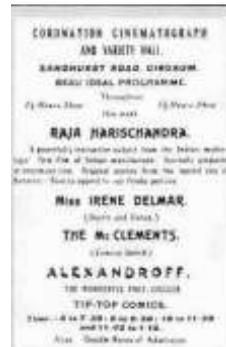
The Indian Cinema Industry entered the 100<sup>th</sup> year on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. India ranks first among the nations which produce films and contributes nearly 23% of the films produced in the world.

### Lumieres' Cinematographie

Within a year of Lumieres' first exhibiting their cinematographie in Paris, an agent brought the equipments and films from France and exhibited the moving pictures in Bombay (now known as Mumbai) on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1896. Within a few months, this was shown in Madras and Calcutta. It is said that when the Lumieres showed their moving picture of the arrival of a train on the screen, the audience rushed out of the theatre at Bombay and Madras fearing that they were going to be run over by the oncoming train.

### The First Silent Movie in 1913

The first feature film in Marathi "Raja Harishchandra" (a silent movie) made by Dadasaheb Phalke was released on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1913, marking the beginning of the Indian cinema industry. The film was Dada's first feature film venture of a full film length of 3700 feet (in four reels) and about 50 minutes of running time. It took seven months 21 days to complete the film. The film was screened at the Coronation Cinema in 1913 before an invited audience of representatives of the press, and guests. The film received wide acclaim and was a commercial success. Phalke followed it up by making films such as Satyavan Savitri, Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra (1917), Lanka Dahan (1917), Sri Krishna Janma (1918) and Kaliya Mardan (1919). Dadasaheb Phalke was by then known as the 'Father of Indian Cinema'. During the early days, no woman was willing to act in films and hence men were playing the roles of women.



### The First Indian Talkie in 1931



The first Indian talkie 'Alam Ara' (with sound), directed by Ardeshir Irani was released in Majestic Cinema on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1931. This film had 7 songs. During that time, there was no sound proof recording theatres or dubbing. The shootings used to be held in the nights with actors acting and delivering the dialogues or singing live. The recordings used to be done with hidden microphones. Alam Ara ran for 124 minutes. This film changed the course of direction of Indian films. This film was produced by "Imperial Movie-Tone".

### Tamil and Telugu Movies

After producing Alam Ara in 1931, Ardeshir Irani made many talkies in the same sets at Bombay. In the same year, Bhakta Prahlada, the first Telugu talking film and Kalidas (in Tamil) were made in the same sets as Alam Ara. Both were directed by H M Reddy, one of the earlier assistants of Ardeshir Irani. Kalidas had multiple language dialogues and songs.

### Newspaper Advertisement about Kalidas on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1931

It is reported that when the first film reels of Kalidas was brought to the Madras Central Railway Station, it was received by the people with great excitement. Although the film was released on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1931, Swadesamitran, one of the leading Tamil dailies of those times wrote a review on 29<sup>th</sup> October itself, praising the movie.



Bhaktha Prahlada (Telugu talkie) was first released in Bombay on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1932 and then in Madras on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1932. Later it was released in Andhra Pradesh, but no documentary proof is available on the date of its release in this region.

### **Gemini Introduced a New Style of Publicity**

A turning point in the film industry happened when 'Chandralekha' was produced by Gemini S S Vasan in 1948. This was the first grand film in India produced at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs (Rs.3 million) during 1948. It had a magnificent dance sequence with a large number of dancers dancing on drums. This was also the first film in India to be released with subtitles in 609 theatres in India and abroad. For the first time, S S Vasan spent heavily on huge publicity banners all over the country to promote the film. The face of the actress in a large mega poster in Bombay, attracted a large crowd at that time. The film, which was 207 minutes long, was produced in the popular 'Gemini Studios' and the production took 5 years. The film was released in April 1948.



### **Growth of Indian Cinema**

From then on, the Indian cinema progressed faster. From the 'drama' type cinemas, real dialogue-oriented and music-oriented films evolved. Moving from the ancient epic-oriented films, directors started taking up social issues. From studio-oriented settings, the directors moved to real outdoor locations in villages, rivers and mountains for shooting their films.

Today, the Indian Cinema has acquired the capability in technology and creativity to match international standards. India is the topmost country in the world to produce the largest number of films. India produces around 1200 films every year. On an average, around 20 million people watch the movies in theatres every day. With the growth of television, cable TV, and exclusive film-oriented channels, more and more people are watching movies.

Hindi (Bollywood), Tamil (Kollywood) and Telugu (Tollywood) films constitute nearly three-fourth of the films produced in India. These films have also captured international attention.

### **Great Indian Directors**

Many Indian cinema directors like Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, V Shantharam, Dada Saheb Phalke, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, K. Balachander, Mani Ratnam, Mahendran, L V Prasad, K Viswanath, Adurthi Subbarao and many more veterans have contributed in their own way to the growth of the Indian Cinema Industry.

### **Films Influencing Politics**

In the past four decades, we have seen film personalities like MGR, NTR, Jayalalitha, Karunanidhi and Vijayakanth occupying high political positions in the South. The film industry still influences political decisions in Tamil Nadu and Andhra.

### **Serious Concerns**

On the positive side, the Indian cinema has developed creativity and capability to match international standards. In the recent decades, it has also become highly commercial, focusing only on revenue. The involvement of underground people and black money has made the industry dangerous to be associated with.

Many of the young directors feel that the 'Masters' who are highly creative and take the industry to the next level, do not get recognised, and in their passion for films and creativity, they undergo much humiliation. The industry, which provides employment opportunities to millions of people directly and indirectly, should get relief from the clutches of unwanted anti-national elements and work towards the development of the industry and the nation.

*Input courtesy to P K Saravanan (Anna University) and Dhanapal Padmanabhan (Cine Director)*

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*

*Source: May 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Gory Jallianwala Bagh Massacre – 13th April 1919

It was on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919, when Punjab was celebrating the 'Baisaki' festival that more than 1000 people, including children and the aged of Punjab were ruthlessly killed by Dyer, who was later known as the 'Butcher of Punjab'.

### Why did People Gather at Jalianwala Bagh?

After Mahatma Gandhi's active entry into the freedom movement in 1915, the entire country was behind him in the struggle for freedom from the British. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1919, two popular leaders, Dr Satyapal and Dr Saif ud-Din Kitchlew, were arrested by the Governor of Punjab, Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer and they were deported from Amritsar. The same day, Mahatma Gandhi's entry into Punjab was



banned under the Defence of India Rules. This led to a protest by the people. In the shootout, 30 civilians were killed. The angry mob went on a rampage and killed five Europeans. Unnerved by the fury of the people, the Governor called in the army to manage the situation, and this infuriated the people further.

In the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> April 1919, Brigadier-General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer, commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade at Jalandhar, arrived in Amritsar with his troop. On 12<sup>th</sup> April 1919, he issued an order, prohibiting all meetings and gatherings.

### Massacre

On 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919, which marked the Baisakhi festival, a large number of people, mostly Sikhs, had poured into the city from the surrounding villages. Local leaders called upon the people to assemble for a



**Martyr well**

meeting in Jallianwala Bagh, a garden in Amritsar, at 4.30 in the evening. The meeting went on peacefully, and two resolutions, one calling for the



**The narrow lane through which the army entered the garden.**

repeal of the Rowlatt Act and the other condemning the firing on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1919, were passed. At about 5.15pm, when a third resolution protesting against the general repressive policy of the government was being proposed, Brigadier-General Dyer entered the garden through a narrow lane with 50 riflemen and two armoured cars with machine guns mounted on them. He deployed his riflemen on an elevation near the entrance and without warning or ordering the crowd to disperse, they

opened fire. The firing continued for about 20 minutes, after which, Dyer and his men marched back the way they had come. 1650 rounds of .303-inch ammunition were fired. This led to 379 being killed and 1200 wounded. Since there was no escape route, many people including children, fell into the well and died. This triggered a protest across the nation and led to the renunciation of the British Knighthood by Rabindranath Tagore.

### **The Fate of Dyer and O'Dwyer**



Dyer

O'Dwyer

Udham Singh

After an enquiry, Brigadier-General Dyer was relieved of his army duties. The Governor, Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer defended Dyer's action.

One Udham Singh (who later changed his name to Ram Mohammad Singh Azad), a 20-year old Sikh, who was disturbed mentally by this massacre took a vow in the Golden Temple to take revenge. After 21 years, on 13<sup>th</sup> March

1940, Udham Singh assassinated Francis O'Dwyer in London. He was arrested immediately and hanged to death on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1940.

While the English media in India condemned Udham Singh for assassinating Francis O'Dwyer, the vernacular media hailed him as a hero. Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru condemned Udham Singh. Dyer died of cerebral haemorrhage and arteriosclerosis on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1927 when he was 62 years of age. This Jallianwala Bagh massacre triggered the freedom movement further to drive the British out. A memorial is erected in this place.

*By Sukruti A Vadula, Editorial Team, PreSense  
Source: April 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## First Transmission by BBC – November 1922



The privately-owned BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) was the world's first national broadcasting organisation. It was founded on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1922 as the British Broadcasting Company Ltd by the British General Post Office (GPO) and a group of six telecommunications companies — Marconi, Radio Communication Company, Metropolitan-Vickers (MetroVick), General Electric, Western Electric, and British Thomson-Houston (BTH) to broadcast experimental radio services.



The first transmission was made on 14<sup>th</sup> November of that year, from station 2LO, located at Marconi House, London. That year, its founder John Reith became its first general manager.

In 1923, he became its Managing Director and in 1927 he was employed as the Director-General of the British Broadcasting Corporation, created under a Royal Charter (picture).

The Royal Charter is the constitutional basis for the BBC. It sets out the public purposes of the BBC, guarantees its independence, and outlines the duties of the Trust and the Executive Board. The current Charter runs until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. BBC is the first public service broadcasting statutory corporation in the world. Its main responsibility is to provide impartial public service broadcasting in the



United Kingdom.

The BBC is the world's oldest national broadcasting organisation and the largest broadcaster in the world employing around 23,000 staff. The BBC is a semi-autonomous public service broadcaster that operates under a Royal Charter and a Licence and Agreement from the Home Secretary.

Within the United Kingdom, its work is funded mainly by an annual television licence fee, which is charged to all British households, companies and organisations using any type of equipment to receive live television broadcasts; the cost of the fee is set annually by the British Government and approved by its Parliament.

Outside the UK, the BBC World Service provides services by direct broadcasting and re-transmission contracts by radio, television and online. The Corporation's guaranteed income from the licence fee and the World Service grants are supplemented by profits from commercial operations through a wholly owned subsidiary, BBC Worldwide Ltd.

According to BBC's 2012-13 Annual Report, its total income was £5,102.3 million. Of this, nearly 71% came from license fees collected from householders; 22% from BBC's commercial business and 6% came from Government grants.

The licence fee has, however, attracted criticism. It is argued that in an age of multi stream, multi-channel availability, an obligation to pay a licence fee is no longer appropriate.

Presently, BBC operates flagship television channels, radio stations in English and many other languages, news service with largest network, the most popular online internet service, etc.

Although BBC is a public service broadcaster, created under the Royal Charter, they have full independence to produce and broadcast their programmes. They provide the most efficient service to its listeners. Even the private broadcasters consider BBC as the benchmark to evaluate their own efficiency. Will AIR and Doordarshan, Public Service broadcasters of India learn to be independent and more efficient like BBC?

BBC official website <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*  
*Source: November 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

## Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi Yatra That Shook the Foundations of the British Raj

### Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram



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

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

### Massive Support from the People

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



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

### **Picking up Salt and Shaking the Foundation of the British Empire**

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

### **Rajaji Leading the Salt Satyagraha in the South**

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



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

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

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

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: March 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Quit India Movement – August 1942

9th August 1942 is one of the important days in the history of the Indian freedom movement.



**Mahatma Gandhi, Azad and Kripalani**

We share the following interesting information for the knowledge of our young and old generations. This will give some idea about the sacrifice made by our leaders during the freedom struggle.

### **World War II and the Cripps Mission**

In the year 1939, the Second World War started between Britain and Germany. In 1942, the then British Governor involved India, without consulting the Congress leaders. This angered the Congress leaders. In March 1942, the British Government sent a delegation under the leadership of Stafford Cripps in what is popularly known as the Cripps Mission, to negotiate with the Congress leaders and persuade them to agree to join the British side in the war, in turn for a promise of freedom. The leaders did not agree to the proposal, as they wanted to maintain neutrality in the war.

### **Preparation for Civil Disobedience**

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 1942, the Indian National Congress passed a resolution demanding complete freedom to India from the British. The resolution also stated that if the British did not accept the demand, Congress would start a 'mass civil disobedience'.



**Huge crowd at Gowalia Tank Maidan on 9th August 1942**

Since Britain was engaged in the peak of World War II, this resolution faced controversy. Sri C Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) opposed the resolution and he quit the Congress. (Rajaji returned to the Congress later) Rajaji warned the Congress that it was not the right time to go for civil disobedience, as the entire world was engaged in World War II. But all other senior leaders accepted the resolution. Some other political parties like the Communists, the Hindu Maha Sabha and the Muslim League, too did not support the call.

### **"Do or die' Call in the Historic Session on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1942**

The historic session of the Indian National Congress was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1942 at the Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay (now known as the August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai). In the midnight of 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August 1942, the Congress passed the famous 'Quit India Resolution', which electrified the country. This has become the popular 'Quit India Movement', and the mass civil disobedience movement was launched with Mahatma Gandhi's "do or die" call.

### **Quit India Movement Turning Violent**

Within a few hours of the resolution and call, all the national leaders were arrested. Since there were no leaders outside, the movement became violent. The people burnt the Government offices and violence could not be controlled by the Congress. The British Government moved in the army and more than one hundred thousand people were arrested. During this period, the contact of the leaders with the masses was cut off. During this period, Mahatma Gandhi's wife, Kasturba Gandhi and his trusted secretary, Mahadev Desai were also put into jail. Mahatma suffered failing health.



**Aga Khan Palace near Poona where Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned from Aug 42 to May 44**

Different reasons were attributed for 'violence' like the absence of the top leaders, mistaken interpretation of the 'do or die' call, inducement by the British rulers indirectly etc. That was why Rajaji forewarned Mahatma

Gandhi and the Congress not to announce the 'civil disobedience' policy. His fear proved right.

### **Hoisting of the Indian Tri-Colour**

When the Quit India movement was started on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942, the British Police treated the masses brutally. At that time, Aruna Asaf Ali proudly hoisted the Indian tri-colour in the Gowalia Tank Maidan. This was the first time the Indian tri-colour was hoisted.

### **Underground Radio Station**

During the movement, Aruna Asaf Ali and Usha Mehta (a student) broadcasted news from an underground radio station (42.34 metres). They were shifting the broadcasting equipment frequently to avoid being captured by the British Police.

All the leaders and freedom fighters who participated in the movement were released only after three years, after the World War II ended.

### **Freedom to India**

After World War II, the Labour Party won the elections and captured power in Britain. They took the initiative to transfer power to the interim Government headed by Pandit Nehru. India attained full independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.

Though the Quit India movement generated controversies at that time, this movement is considered one of the important milestones in the Indian freedom movement to force Britain to hand over power to the Indian leaders.

Let us salute those brave freedom fighters for their great sacrifice.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: August 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## World War II (1st Sep 1939 to 2nd Sep 1945)

### Beginning of World War II

Nationalistic tensions, unresolved issues, resentments resulting from the World War I, the inter-war period in Europe and the effects of the Great Depression in the 1930s were the main reasons for World War II.

The culmination of events like invasion of the Republic of China by the Empire of Japan in 1937 and invasion of Poland by Germany and Soviet Russia in 1939 led to the outbreak of World War II. These military

aggressions were the result of decisions made by the authoritarian ruling Nazi elite in Germany and by the leadership of the Kwantung Army in Japan. World War II started after these aggressive actions were met with an official declaration of war and/or armed resistance.



German battleship Schleswig-Holstein during a shellfire of Gdynia (Poland) on 13<sup>th</sup> sep 1939.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, Germany invaded western Poland. In response, Britain and France declared war on Germany on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1939, Soviet forces invaded Eastern Poland. These invasions marked the beginning of World War II.

### Impact of World War II

Major countries in the world grouped themselves into two major forces (a) allies and (b) axis to fight against each other. The World War II lasted 6 years and 1 day. The battle was fought in 9 different locations across the world.

Soviet Union, USA, UK, China, France, Poland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Yugoslavia formed the 'Allied Powers'. Joseph Stalin, Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai Shek were leading the Allied forces. Germany, Japan, Italy, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria formed the 'Axis Powers'. Adolf Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito were leading the Axis Powers.



Mussolini and Adolf Hitler

The two groups involved nearly 100 million military personnel in this world war, resulting in the death of nearly 24 million soldiers. 50 to 55 million civilians lost their lives. In total, nearly 80 million people lost their lives during this World War II and this comprised nearly 4% of the then world population.

### **Adolf Hitler's Atrocities**

Hitler began a military build-up on Germany's western border, and in April 1940, German forces invaded Denmark and Norway. On 9<sup>th</sup> April, Hitler proclaimed the birth of the "Greater Germanic Reich" to his associates; this was his vision of a united empire of the Germanic nations of Europe, where the Dutch, Flemish, Scandinavians, and other people would join to form a single, racially-pure polity under German leadership. In May 1940, Hitler's forces attacked France and conquered Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium. These victories prompted Mussolini to have Italy join forces with Hitler on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1940. France surrendered on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1940.

Hitler's forces committed numerous atrocities during the war, including the systematic killing (known as 'Holocaust') of around 17 million civilians, including the genocide of an estimated six million Jews. Many victims of the Holocaust were gassed to death, while others died of starvation or disease while working as slave labourers. Hitler eliminated nearly 80% of the Jewish population in the Nazi Germany in hundreds of 'concentration camps'.



Horror Chamber at Buchenwald Concentration Camp

### **Japan Attacking Pearl Harbour – Another Turning Point**

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. Four days later, Hitler's formal declaration of war against the United States engaged Germany in a war against a coalition that included the world's largest empire (the British Empire), the world's greatest industrial and financial power (the United States) and the world's largest army (the Soviet Union).

## Participation by Indian Soldiers – Mahatma and Netaji

Since India was under the British regime, the British Government involved India in the war without consulting the Indian leaders. Nearly 2.5 million soldiers were fighting alongside the British soldiers. Mahatma Gandhi ridiculed the Britain's opposition to Nazism and fascism as hypocrisy since Britain was violating human rights in India.

Meanwhile, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose reorganised the 'Indian National Army' (INA) in alliance with Japan to fight against the British troops. Nearly 40,000 Indian soldiers captured by Japan as 'Prisoners of War' (POW) joined INA and fought against Britain. They gave a tough fight to the British Army in the battle field.

## Fall of Hitler and Mussolini

In late 1942, German forces were defeated in the second battle of El Alamein, thwarting Hitler's plans to seize the Suez Canal and the Middle East. In February 1943, the Battle of Stalingrad ended with the destruction of the German Sixth Army. Thereafter came a decisive defeat at the Battle of Kursk. Hitler's military judgment became increasingly erratic, and Germany's military and economic position deteriorated along with Hitler's health. It was also believed that Hitler might have suffered from Parkinson's disease.



A headline in the U.S. Army newspaper Stars and Stripes announcing Hitler's death

Within three years, Germany and the Axis powers occupied most of Europe and large parts of Africa, East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean. However, the Allies gained the upper hand from 1942 onwards and in 1945 Allied armies invaded Germany from all sides. On 29th April 1945, Mussolini was assassinated. On 30<sup>th</sup> April 1945, Hitler shot himself.

## Surrender by Germany and Japan – End of World War II

The war in Europe ended when Nazi Germany signed its Instrument of Surrender on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, but the Pacific War continued. Together with the United Kingdom and the Republic of China, the United States called for the surrender of Japan in the Potsdam Declaration on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1945, threatening Japan with "prompt and utter destruction". The Japanese government ignored this ultimatum, and the United States deployed two nuclear weapons developed by the Manhattan Project. American airmen dropped Little Boy on the city of Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945, followed by Fat Man over Nagasaki on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Nearly 250,000 people died.

The atomic bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan were conducted by the United States during the final stages of World War II in 1945. These two events represent the only use of nuclear weapons in war to date.



Japan Foreign Minister and Chief of Army Staff  
on board USS Missouri during surrender  
ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1945

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945, six days after the bombing of Nagasaki, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies, signing the Instrument of Surrender on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945, officially ending World War II.

### **Post War Impact**

The victory of the Allies over the Axis in 1945 ended the conflict. World War II altered the political alignment and the social structure of the world. The United Nations (UN) was established to foster international co-operation and prevent future conflicts. The great powers that were the victors of the war — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, the United Kingdom, and France—became permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The Soviet Union and the United States emerged as rival superpowers, setting the stage for the Cold War, which lasted 46 years.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: September 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Where was Mahatma Gandhi on Independence Day?

India celebrated her Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012. In our ezine, every month, we trace back the historical event relating to that month. In this issue, we take our readers back to 1947 when the nation was celebrating the Independence Day. During the celebrations at Delhi, when Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was unfurling the Indian Flag at the Red Fort, Mahatma Gandhi was on a fast and prayer at Calcutta. We trace back the historical event.

### Communal Clash at Calcutta in 1946

During the Quit India Movement in August 1942, more than one lakh leaders were arrested. When all the leaders were in prison, Muhammad Ali Jinnah brought a two-nation theory and demanded partition into India and Pakistan. After Mahatma Gandhi came out of the prison, he wanted to stop the move for partition. Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared a 'Direct Action Day' on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1946 demanding the partition. This resulted in communal clashes across the nation. In Calcutta alone, more than five thousand people were killed and more than fifteen thousand people injured.



At that time, Mahatma went to Calcutta to get the Hindus and Muslims together. When he was at Calcutta, violence broke in Bihar, killing more than 4500 people.

### Mahatma's Fast on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947

Mahatma Gandhi declared that he would go on a fast to end his life, if the communal clashes were not stopped. Although his appeal brought calm where he was, rioting continued in other places.



Mahatma Gandhi reluctantly agreed for partition and the British Government handed over powers to the Indian leaders, with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister. The entire country was celebrating the Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.

But Mahatma Gandhi was in Calcutta fasting on that day and spending his time in prayers, and spinning. He also met groups of people, as usual. The previous day (14<sup>th</sup> August 1947), while speaking at the Marwari Club, Mahatma had said that although India would be free from slavery under the British

from midnight, India would be cut into two pieces. That reflected his mood that day. He was not happy that India was being "portioned out".

The partition of India and the communal clashes affected him. On that day of Independence, when a group of students met him, he said, "I am not lifted off my feet by these demonstrations of joy."

### **Fasting Again in Sep 1947 Without Even Taking Water**

Since communal clashes continued in Calcutta, Mahatma Gandhi began his fast again from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1947. Normally during his fast, he used to take water with salt. Rajaji, then Governor General of India came to Mahatma's place at Calcutta and tried to persuade him to end the fast, which was causing concern to all.

Mahatma Gandhi said that he left everything at the 'disposal' of God. Since Rajaji was a close associate of Mahatma, and was his advisor on many key issues, Rajaji jovially asked him, "If you have left yourself at the disposal of God, then why are you taking water with salt".



Mahatma Gandhi immediately stopped taking salted water too during the fast.

After the assurance of Hindu and Muslim leaders that they would remain peaceful, he ended his fast on 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1947. He did not drink the salted water till the day he ended his fast.

*(Based on input from Mr Annamalai,  
Director, Gandhi Study Centre, Chennai, and other sources)*

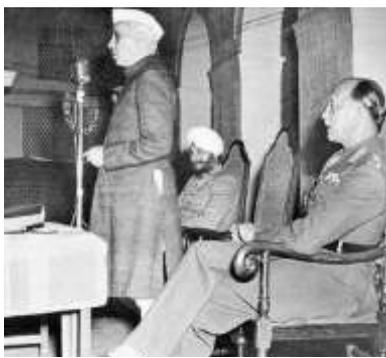
*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*

*Source: August 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Gen. K M Cariappa, India's First Army General – Some Inspiring Facts**

After gaining Indian Independence, a meeting was organised to select the first General of the Indian Army. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru chaired that meeting. Leaders and army officers were discussing about whom this responsibility should be given to. During the discussion Nehru said, "I think we should appoint a British officer as the General of the Indian Army as we don't have enough experience to lead the same." Everybody supported Nehru because if the PM was suggesting something, how could they not agree?



**Jawaharlal Nehru and K M Cariappa**

But one of the army officers abruptly said, "I have a point, sir."

Nehru said, "Yes, gentleman. You are free to speak."

He said, "You see, sir, we don't have enough experience to lead a nation too, so shouldn't we appoint a British person as first PM of India?" The meeting hall suddenly went quiet.

Then, Nehru said, "Are you ready to be the first General of Indian Army?"

He got a golden chance to accept the offer but he refused the same and said, "Sir, we have a very talented army officer, my senior, Lt Gen Cariappa, who is the most deserving among us."

The army officer who raised his voice against the PM was Lt General Nathu Singh Rathore, the First Lt General of the Indian Army.

On being appointed as the first Commander-in-Chief of the independent Indian Army on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1949, Gen. Cariappa was instrumental in the integration of troops and turning an imperial army into a national army.

During the 1965 war, when his son, an Indian Air Force pilot, flew an aircraft, the plane was shot down by Pakistan. He was captured and imprisoned as a Prisoner of War (POW). When Ayub Khan learned about this, he informed Cariappa that he would not be kept in a POW Camp like other Indian POWs, since they had worked together before independence. But Cariappa politely declined the offer, saying every soldier in the Indian Army was his son, so he could not request special privileges for only one.

As a token of gratitude by the nation for the exemplary service rendered by him, the Government of India conferred on Gen Cariappa the rank of Field Marshal in 1983. On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1993, Field Marshal K M Cariappa died in Bangalore, when he was 94. Let us all salute this great Indian Soldier.

*Photo courtesy: The Hindu*

*Source: May 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## The Making of the Indian Constitution

on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013, India celebrated the 64<sup>th</sup> Republic Day with joy and gaiety. While conveying the greetings to all the readers, we thought of sharing some interesting facts about the significance of this day for the benefit of our young readers.

### The British Rule



The first Britishers entered India in 1579. Thereafter, merchants started coming in and soon began to rule us. In 1765, the authority was formally transferred to the East India Company. Then the British Parliament took over the administration. Indians started protesting the

foreign rule even from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885 to formally fight the foreign rulers. After the entry of Mahatma Gandhi, the freedom movement became dynamic. Before Independence, India was governed by various Acts enacted by the British Parliament. The Government of India Act 1858, the Government of India Act 1909, the Government of India Act 1919 and finally the Government of India Act 1935 framed by the British Parliament governed Indians. (These Acts became irrelevant after Independence and the adoption of the Indian Constitution)

### Constituent Assembly Formed

After a prolonged struggle and negotiations, as a fore-runner of Independence, a 'Constituent Assembly' was formed with members, representing different regions and religions. The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1946. Many great leaders were part of this Assembly. On the first day, 207 members participated.

On the first day, Acharya Kriplani, one of the respected leaders, started the proceedings invoking the 'divine blessings' and proposing the name of Shri Sachchidananda Sinha (Bihar), the eldest member of the Assembly as the 'Provisional Chairman' till the Chairman was elected.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) was the first member to present the credentials and sign the register to become a member of the Constituent Assembly.

On the third day, Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. The designation 'Chairman' was subsequently replaced with 'President of the Constituent Assembly'.

India attained freedom and independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 and this Constituent Assembly took over the Governance of India from the British Parliament. Lord Mountbatten was requested by the Constituent Assembly to continue as Governor General for some time. Shri C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) took over as the Governor General on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1948 and he continued till 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. Rajaji was the first Indian Governor General of India. After 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950, the post of Governor General was made President of India. Dr Rajendra Prasad became the first President of India.



### **Framing the Draft of the Constitution for India**

After independence, the Constituent Assembly wanted to frame the Constitution for India. They constituted a 'Committee to draft the constitution' on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1947 under the Chairmanship of Dr B R Ambedkar. Shri Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, Shri N



Jawaharlal Nehru moving the resolution for an Independent Sovereign Republic in Constituent Assembly

Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Shri K M Mushi, Shri Saiyid Mohd Saadulla, Shri B L Mitter and Shri D P Khaitan were included as members of this Committee.

These eminent people drafted the Indian Constitution and presented to the Constituent Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1947.

### **Discussion in the Constituent Assembly**

The Constituent Assembly discussed the Draft Constitution in detail in 114 sittings, spread over 2 years, 11 months and 17 days. The final Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949. This day is also known as National Law Day.

### **Constitution Document Signed**

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 1950, 284 members of the Constituent Assembly signed the document and presented the official Constitution to the nation. Two hand-written copies of our Constitution (one in English and the other in Hindi), and one print copy of English Version were signed by the members.

After putting their signatures, all the members including Dr Rajendra Prasad (President of India Elect) sang 'Vandemataram' and 'Jana Gana Mana' in a chorus, symbolising a great achievement of the Sovereign Independent Republic of India, after a struggle of nearly three centuries.

The proceedings of the Constituent Assembly can be read in the link <http://164.100.47.132/Issnew/constituent/vol12p1.html>

This Constitution came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. From that day, India is a Sovereign Independent Republic.



When the new Constitution was signed by the members on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1950, it was drizzling outside the Parliament at Delhi. It was considered a good omen by them.

This Constituent Assembly was made a 'Provisional Indian Parliament' from 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. The first General Election was held in 1952 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Lok Sabha was constituted.

### **Indian Constitution - Some interesting facts**

The Indian Constitution, drafted by great visionaries, continues to be one of the best constitutions in the world. Many global legal experts have praised our constitution. The Indian Constitution contains 22 parts, 395 articles, 12 schedules and 2 appendices. Over a period of 64 years, the Constitution has undergone 97 amendments.

We are publishing these details for the benefit of the younger generation. The freedom and sovereignty we enjoy did not come in a single day. Our elders have struggled and lost their lives in the freedom movement spread over nearly 300 years. The great visionary leaders have also provided us a great Constitution. None of these leaders, who had signed the constitution is alive today.

It is the responsibility of every one of us to salute our great leaders and freedom fighters on this day and live upto their vision.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief  
Source: January 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## India–Pakistan War 1947

When India and Pakistan were given independence in August 1947, the British Government gave the choice to the Princely States existing then in the Indian sub-continent, to join either India or Pakistan. With the efforts of

Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the then Home Minister, who was also known as the 'Iron Man of India', 566 Princely states (excepting 3 states) chose India.



At that time, Jammu & Kashmir State was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh (Father of Dr Karan Singh, a well known leader currently).

The state, with a majority of

Muslims, was ruled by a Hindu King. The state consisted of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladak. While the Kashmir Valley had a majority Muslim population, the people in Jammu and Ladak were mainly Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists. As he was under pressure from both India and Pakistan to accede to their Governments, he postponed his decision.

### Pakistan Invading India

Meanwhile, in October 1947, Pakistan organised a clandestine invasion of the State by a force of Pathan tribesmen, ex-servicemen and soldiers 'on leave'. They broke out in Pooch in Southwest of Kashmir. The Pakistan army gave them full support and back-up as they wanted to capture Kashmir within a week. Maharaja's army could not withstand this sudden invasion.



**Maharaja Hari Singh**

### **Kashmir accedes to India**

In the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh (photo) offered to accede to India and this was accepted by the then Governor General Lord Mountbatten the following day. Within a few hours, the Indian Army was sent to Kashmir Valley to drive out the invading tribal people and Pakistan army men.

### **Indian Army Fighting Back Pakistan**

At that time, the Indian Army was under the control of the British officers and they had some technical problems in entering Kashmir to fight against the Pakistan army. The Indian Army under the leadership of Major S K Singh (who later became the Governor of J & K State) entered Kashmir Theatre of war. In spite of bad weather, they managed to airlift the army men in 800 Dakota sorties from Delhi to Srinagar within a short time. Lord Mountbatten recorded: "In my long experience of war, I have not come across another such massive airlift carried out so successfully."

### **Sudden Orders to Cease Fire**



The Indian Army succeeded in chasing out the invaders. Had they continued for another week or a little more, they would have flushed them out completely. Meanwhile, the Indian Army got the orders to cease fire and to halt the advance to Muzaffarabad. The British Commander, Russell was surprised by the orders. He felt they were losing a golden opportunity. He was of the view that the Indian forces

should advance to Muzaffarabad and seal the border by securing the two bridges at Kohala and Domel. Sealing the entry points into Kashmir, he opined, would also relieve the pressure on the besieged forces in Poonch.

The then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took up the matter with the UN Security Council and under Resolution 47 of UN, ordered Pakistan to

withdraw the troops for a free and fair 'plebiscite' in Jammu & Kashmir region. Although Pakistan did not withdraw their troops from the J & K Region, the cease fire came into force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1949.

### Was India's Move an Historical Blunder?

Because of this, Pakistan occupied nearly 35% of the J & K Region ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, who had acceded to India. This portion is still known as 'Pakistan Occupied Kashmir' and problems continue till date.

According to the army officers and the political leaders of that day, taking up the Kashmir issue to UN by Pandit Nehru was a great 'historical blunder'. If the Indian Army had continued the war for another week without declaring a unilateral cease fire, the Indian army would have flushed all the invaders out of the



Source: [www.rediff.com](http://www.rediff.com) - POK : Pak occupied Kashmir  
COK: China occupied Kashmir

Indian territory, and Kashmir would not have become the grave issue it is today. The Indian Army site even records the event so: (<http://goo.gl/ytupG>)

“Before the remaining areas occupied by Pakistan could be liberated by Indian troops, a cease fire came into effect on 1 January 1949. After bitter fighting lasting 14 months, the UN mediation brought about an uneasy truce.”

Since a majority of the Kashmiri people at that time were more keen on joining India, 'plebiscite' immediately after the flushing out invaders would have permanently resolved the Kashmir issue. Instead the then Indian Government took this issue to UN for intervention, and this complicated the issue, and it remains unresolved till date.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: October 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## India-China War 1962



On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1962, the Chinese launched simultaneous offensives in Ladakh and across the McMahon Line. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister then and Mr V K Krishna Menon was the Defence Minister. The war ended when the Chinese declared a ceasefire on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1962. The border dispute continues till now.

India did not fare well in this war. While China was fighting with 80,000 soldiers, India was fighting with only around 12,000 soldiers. At the end of the war, China occupied around 50,000 sq.km of the Indian territory and the dispute remains unresolved till this date. Kailash and Mansarovar which were once part of India after independence are now in the possession of China.

India lost around 1600 soldiers. Nearly 1400 soldiers were wounded. Around 1700 soldiers were missing. 4000 soldiers were captured by China as 'Prisoners of War' and later released.

Many reasons are attributed to the failure of India in the war. Although Pandit Nehru was the Prime Minister, the political leadership and planning for defence preparedness were reported to be lacking. Even when the Chinese Army was invading India, India was shouting slogans like 'Indi-Chini bhai bhai' (India and China are brothers), without knowing that China was occupying Indian lands.

Many army officers, who were part of the Indian army then, allege that the Indian Army was not equipped with enough weapons and Jawans. Although the Indian army had enough war experience from the World War, they failed due to poor planning and leadership by the political system. In fact,

during that time, the Government reported to have reduced the army strength from 2.80 lakh to 1.50 lakh.

The 1962 War taught us several lessons. Some of the important reports like the Henderson Brooks–Bhagat Report on the failure of India, are not made public even after 50 years, for the reason that it might embarrass many of the leaders who were in the Government then.

Let us pay respect and homage to the Jawans who lost their lives in the 1962 War to secure the Indian borders. (Graphic courtesy: Hindustan Times)

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: October 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## **Soviet and US in Space Race**

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969, history was created by mankind by landing on the moon. Neil Armstrong set his foot from America's Spacecraft Apollo 11 on the moon. Looking back on the history, PreSense focuses on the important events in the space mission.

### **Space Race during Cold War**

Between 1957 and 1975, the Cold War rivalry between the two nations, the Soviet Union (USSR) and the United States (US) focused on attaining firsts in space exploration. These were seen as necessary for national security, and symbolic of technological and ideological superiority. The Space Race involved pioneering efforts to launch artificial satellites, sub-orbital and orbital human spaceflight around the Earth, and piloted voyages to the moon. While the Soviet Union was the first to enter the space, the United States became the first to land man on the moon.

The space race began with the Soviet launch of Sputnik 1 artificial satellite on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957, and concluded with the co-operative Apollo-Soyuz Test Project human spaceflight mission in July 1975. The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project came to symbolise détente, a partial easing of strained relations between USSR and USA.

The Space Race had its origins in the missile-based arms race that occurred just after the end of the World War II, when both the Soviet Union and the United States captured advanced German rocket technology and personnel. The Space Race sparked unprecedented increases in spending on education and pure research, which accelerated scientific advancements.

Some of the famous probes and missions include Sputnik 1, Explorer 1, Vostok 1, Mariner 2, Ranger 7, Luna 9, Alouette 1, Apollo 8, and Apollo 11.

### **Seeding the Space Exploration**

In 1952, the International Council of Scientific Unions decided to establish July 1, 1957, to December 31, 1958, as the International Geophysical Year (IGY) because the scientists knew that the cycles of solar activity would be at a high point then. In October 1954, the Council adopted a resolution calling for artificial satellites to be launched during the IGY to map the Earth's surface. In July 1955, the White House announced plans to launch



an Earth-orbiting satellite for the IGY and solicited proposals from various Government research agencies to undertake the development.

### Sputnik (USSR)

The Sputnik 1 rocket (picture) was launched at 19:28:34 UTC, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957. The Sputnik satellite, weighing 83kg (183lb) and only twice the size of a football, could be seen with the naked eye as it circled the Earth for 22 days. It emitted a signal that could be heard on a household radio. It took about 98 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path. The successful launch of Sputnik 1 changed history, by starting the space age and space race between US and USSR.

In addition, the Europeans and the Americans feared that the Soviet Union's ability to launch satellites also translated into their capability to launch ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear weapons from Europe to USA. Then the Soviets struck again. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1957, Sputnik II was launched, carrying a much heavier payload, including a dog named Laika.



### USA's Response by Launching Explorer I

The launch of Sputnik triggered US to grant more funds to compete with USSR. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1958, the United States successfully launched Explorer I. This satellite discovered the magnetic radiation belts around the Earth, and was named after Principal Investigator, James Van Allen.

## Launch of NASA by US

The Sputnik launch also led directly to the creation of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1958.



### First Person to Orbit the Earth (USSR)

USSR was achieving more success in space mission, ignited by intense rivalry from USA. These included sending the first man, Yuri Gagarin into space, and carrying out the first spacewalk. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1961, the Soviets launched Yuri Gagarin into orbit around the Earth on Vostok 1 spacecraft. Yuri Gagarin was in space for 1 hour

and 48 minutes. (See picture)

### Historic Speech of Kennedy (US)

In an historic speech on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1961, President John F Kennedy announced an ambitious space exploration programme in the joint session of the Congress. This included putting a man on the moon before the end of the decade. (picture on right).



### First Space Ship to Land on Moon (USSR)

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1966, Luna 9 spacecraft was the first spacecraft to achieve a soft landing on the moon, or any planetary body other than Earth, and to transmit photographs.

### Apollo 11 – Man on the Moon (US)

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969, Apollo 11 with 3 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr, was launched. After entering the lunar orbit, Armstrong and Aldrin were transferred to Lunar Module (LM) named 'Eagle'. Eagle landed on the moon's Sea of Tranquillity at 4:17 pm EDT, 20th July 1969. The first humans on the Moon waited for six hours before they

ventured out of their craft. At 10:56:15 pm EDT, Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the Moon.



The first step was witnessed by at least 500 million TV viewers on Earth. His first words when he stepped off the LM's landing pad were, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Aldrin joined him on the moon's surface almost 20 minutes later. Together, they spent just under two and one-quarter hours outside their craft. Apollo 11 safely blasted

out of the moon's orbit on its way back to a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1969.

Thus, USA kept up its commitment of landing on the moon before the end of the decade with 161 days to spare and won the race to the moon.

### **Apollo Soyuz Test Project Ended the Space Race**

Marking the end of Cold War between the two super powers, in July 1975, the first Joint US-Soviet space flight US-USSR Apollo Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) was launched.

Astronaut Thomas P. Stafford (in foreground – see picture) and cosmonaut Aleksei A. Leonov made their historic handshake in space on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1975 in Earth orbit. The American and Soviet spacecrafts were joined together in space for approximately 47 hours on July 17th, 18th, 19th, and 1975.



Watch this podcast on 'Space Race' by USSR and US with rare audio and visual clippings.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVjNKdItJw>

*By Susan Koshy, Editor  
Source: July 2012 issue of ezine*

## June 1975 – When Indian Democracy Came to a Grinding Halt

Ever since Indian independence, the country has been facing serious challenges from time to time, and every time, it overcame with courage and conviction. India got its freedom from the British in the midnight of 14-15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. The same freedom and democracy was put to a 'grinding halt' in the midnight of 25-26<sup>th</sup> June 1975.



In the midnight of June 25, 1975, 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 compromised. Some of the provisions of the Constitution were suspended. Even the judiciary was made powerless. Within a few hours, many of the national leaders like Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai, Kripalani, George Fernandes, Chandrasekhar, Vajpayee, L K Advani and Charan Singh were arrested and put behind the bars.

There is nothing much in the records about those 'dark days'. Thus the present generation is deprived of knowing the details of this period of the Indian history. In this edition, we attempt to bring out some of the important aspects of Indian Emergency.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*  
*Source: June 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Circumstances Leading to the Proclamation of Emergency



**Indira Gandhi**

Immediately after India's victory in the Indo-Pak war which created Bangladesh, the Congress Party led by Indira Gandhi (see photo) 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 (see photo) 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 the Government machinery. Shanthi Bhushan, the noted advocate argued for Raj Narain.



**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 the Supreme Court refused to stay the order of the Allahabad High Court. The same day, the Congress led by Indira Gandhi lost the 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 were protests against Indira Gandhi at that time.



**Jayaprakash Narayan**

In this backdrop and on the suggestions of Siddhartha Shankar Ray, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal, Indira Gandhi advised the President of India to declare internal emergency in India.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief,  
PreSense*

*Source: June 2012 of ezine PreSense*

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## Emergency Days – Four Pillars of Democracy Crippled

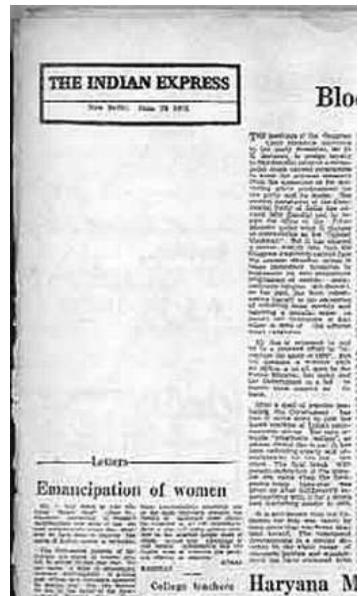


Nearly 140,000 leaders were arrested during this period. Of this, around 40,000 were from the Sikh community. Some of the senior leaders were even handcuffed (See photo of George Fernandes in a handcuff).

Sycophants surrounded Indira Gandhi. Many excesses were committed. Sterilisations were carried out by force. 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. The powers of the Courts were removed. There was press censorship. Only Doordarshan

and All India Radio were broadcasting Government approved news. The print media had to obtain prior approval of their news items, from the Censor Officer of the respective region. Hence, the people were not privy to correct information. Only a handful of newspaper houses showed courage at that time. We have to appreciate the courage shown by The Indian Express and Thuglak (Cho Ramaswamy) at that time, to fight against the emergency.

The Indian Express published a 'blank editorial' as a mark of protest against 'censorship'. 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 compromise to the Government's *dictat*, many of the national papers acceded to it. Historically, the so called 'big brands' of today, were on their knees during the emergency days, to save their skin.



**Sanjay and Indira Gandhi**

Dr Subramaniam Swamy was a Member of Parliament then. The Government wanted to arrest him. Every time, he used to make a brief appearance in the Parliament and within a few hours, he would re-surface in some foreign country. He gave a tough fight against the emergency.

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

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: June 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## End of Emergency – All Records Destroyed

### Elections Declared

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

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



In the General Elections, Janata Party and its allies swept the polls, 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 just 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 made a constitutional amendment (known as the 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment) crippling the constitutional powers. But after the Janata Party came into power, they reversed all the amendments, to restore the supremacy of the Constitution. (popularly known as 44<sup>th</sup> 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 excesses committed during the Emergency period. Justice Shah submitted his report in August 1978.

Unfortunately, the Janata Government could not continue in power for long, due to the internal differences of its leaders. Thereafter, the Janata Party split into various parties, like Janata Dal, BJP, Samajvadi Party, etc. Dr Subramaniam Swamy is the lone leader at present, who remained in the original Janata Party.

### **Indira Back to Power**

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

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: June 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Shankar's Weekly – Final Cover 31<sup>st</sup> 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 the introduction of Press Censorship during the 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)

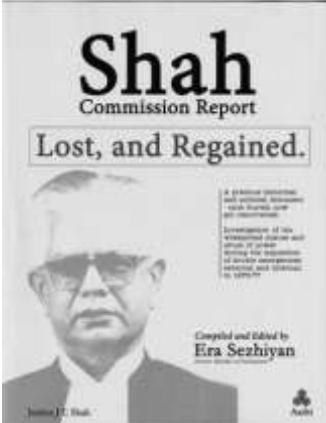
In the Editorial of the last edition, Shankar Pillai, the Editor wrote, "Dictatorships cannot afford laughter because people may laugh at the dictator and that wouldn't do. In all the years of **Hitler**, there never was a good comedy, not a good cartoon, not a parody, or a spoof. From this point, the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

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: June 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Shah Commission Report – Lost and Regained

The entire 21 months' dark period in the Indian democracy was buried under. Mr Era Sezhiyan, a well-known Parliamentarian and Member of Parliament during the Emergency period, had one copy of the Shah Commission Report in his library. He is now 90 years old. The report has now been reprinted and published. I took an interview with Mr Sezhiyan about the Shah Commission Report. Please listen to an exclusive interview with Mr Era. Sezhiyan on the Shah Commission Report: <http://goo.gl/XQNfE>



The interview can also be watched on

**YouTube: <http://goo.gl/QrPH8>**

### Forgotten History and Heroes

Martyrs have been forgotten in history. Attempts were made to erase this part of the history too. Because of the ignorance of this great struggle, even Anna Hazare team called his movement the 'second freedom movement'. Calling Anna Hazare's movement the 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 had spent their time in prison during the Emergency days.

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

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: June 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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

Abu Abraham's (A well-known Indian cartoonist) cartoon in the 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.



Source: June 2012 issue of ezine PreSense

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# Dissolution of the Mighty Soviet Union - December 1991

## The Soviet Flag Lowered for the Last Time

**"All the News That's Fit to Print"**

**The New York Times**

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1991

**GORBACHEV, LAST SOVIET LEADER, RESIGNS; U.S. RECOGNIZES REPUBLICS' INDEPENDENCE**

**Communist Flag Is Removed; Yeltsin Gets Nuclear Controls**

**RETAILERS REPORT SALES FELL SHORT OF DIM FORECASTS**

**LAST MINUTE BUYING SPURTS FAILS TO CARRY MERCHANTS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR'S RECEIPTS**

**By ERIC ARONOFF**

...retailers as a month ago...  
...retailers had been optimistic...  
...to carry merchants ahead...  
...of last year's receipts...

**By FRANCIS X. CLUNE**

...Mikhail S. Gorbachev...  
...resigned as president...  
...of the Soviet Union...  
...and handed over...  
...nuclear codes to Boris Yeltsin...

**The Soviet State, Born of a Dream, Dies**

**By SERGE WEINMANN**

**End of an Empire**

...it was perhaps a question that...  
...the Soviet Union...  
...was a dream...  
...that had been...  
...born of a dream...  
...and now it was...  
...dying...

**BUSH LAUDS VISION OF SOVIET LEADER**

**In Farewell, President Cites Gorbachev's Historic Role**

**By MICHAEL MOHR**

...President Bush...  
...praised Gorbachev...  
...for his role...  
...in ending the...  
...Cold War...

When the whole world was celebrating Christmas on 25 December 1991, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev resigned, declaring his office extinct, and handed over the Soviet nuclear missile launching codes to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This marked the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), a massive communist empire that had existed since 1922.

That same evening at 7:32 P.M. the Soviet flag was lowered from the Kremlin for the last time and replaced by the Russian tri-colour. The dissolution of the state also marked an end to the Cold War. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) formally ceased to exist on 26 December

1991. On this day, the dissolution of the Soviet Union was finalized by declaration no. 142-H of the Soviet of the Republics of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, acknowledging the independence of the twelve republics of the Soviet Union that created the Commonwealth of Independent States.

### **Mikhail Gorbachev**

The USSR had been in a long economic stagnation when Gorbachev came to power in 1985. In order to bring about change, he introduced several reforms, including perestroika (economic restructuring) and glasnost (openness). Glasnost opened the floodgates of protest and many republics made moves toward independence, threatening the continued existence of the USSR.

On February 7, 1990, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) accepted the recommendation of Mikhail Gorbachev that the party give up its 70-year-long monopoly of political power.

During 1990 all fifteen constituent republics of the USSR held their first competitive elections. Reformers and ethnic nationalists won many of the seats. The CPSU lost the elections in six republics.

In August 1991, a group of Communist Party hardliners, frustrated over the separatist movement, attempted to stage a coup. It failed due to a massive show of civil resistance. This attempt destabilised the Government further.

### **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**

Representatives from 11 Soviet republics (Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) met in the Kazakh city of Alma-Ata and announced that they would no longer be part of the Soviet Union. Instead, they declared they would establish a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The three Baltic republics (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) had already declared their independence from the USSR. Georgia joined CIS in 1993 and withdrew in 2008.

### Cause for Soviet Collapse



**Post-Soviet states in alphabetical order: 1. Armenia, 2. Azerbaijan, 3. Belarus, 4. Estonia, 5. Georgia, 6. Kazakhstan, 7. Kyrgyzstan, 8. Latvia, 9. Lithuania, 10. Moldova, 11. Russia, 12. Tajikistan, 13. Turkmenistan, 14. Ukraine, 15. Uzbekistan**

Stagnating economy, unwanted army involvement in Afghanistan, economic reforms Perestroika, decentralisation with more autonomy to republics, transparency and openness (Glasnost), cover up of nuclear power plant accident at Chernobyl, growing nationalism in the individual republics due to the political blunders of the Communist leaders, lack of economic incentives to encourage innovation and productivity, excessive focus on military power due to keeping pace with massive US military build-up, reduced motivation and fear against the American threat, Importance given to Russia over other states were the major causes for Soviet disintegration.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: December 2013 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## September 11 Attack on World Trade Centre

On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001, Al-Qaeda, a terrorist group launched a series of four coordinated attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C. and the metropolitan areas in the United States.

### Attack on World Trade Centre and Pentagon



Four passenger airliners were hijacked by 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists for the suicide attacks. Two of the planes, the American Airlines Flight 11 and the United Airlines Flight 175 were crashed into the North and South Towers respectively, of the World Trade Centre complex in New York City. Within two hours, both the towers collapsed. The debris and the resultant fire and heat caused the partial or complete collapse of other buildings in the WTC complex. Major damage was also

caused to ten other large surrounding structures.

A third plane, the American Airlines Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon (the headquarters of the United States Department of Defence), leading to a partial collapse in its western side.

The fourth plane, the United Airlines Flight 93, was targeted at Washington, D.C, but crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after its passengers tried to overtake the hijackers.

### Death Toll

In total, around 3,000 people, including 227 civilians and 19 hijackers aboard the four planes, died in the attacks. This included citizens from over 90 countries. It was the deadliest incident for the fire-fighters in the history of the United States.

Along with the 110-floor Twin Towers, numerous other buildings at the World Trade Centre site were destroyed or badly damaged.

### Al-Qaeda Claiming Responsibility

Suspicion quickly fell on Al-Qaeda. Although the group's leader, Osama bin Laden, initially denied any involvement, in 2004, he claimed responsibility for the attacks. Al-Qaeda and bin Laden cited U.S. support of Israel, the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, and sanctions against Iraq as motives for the attacks.

### US launched War Against Terror

The United States responded to the attacks by launching the War on Terror and invading Afghanistan to depose the Taliban, who had harboured the Al-Qaeda. Many countries strengthened their anti-terrorism legislation and enhanced their law enforcement powers. After evading capture for several years, bin Laden was finally located and killed by the U.S. forces in May 2011.

### Post 9/11 - Recovery



**Osama Bin Laden**



The destruction of the Twin Towers and the other buildings had caused serious damage to the economy of Lower Manhattan. This had a significant effect on the global markets, closing Wall Street until September 17 and the civilian airspace in the U.S. and Canada until September 13. Many closings, evacuations, and cancellations followed the attack, either out of fear of further attacks or respect for the affected.

Clean-up of the World Trade Centre site was completed in May 2002, and the Pentagon was repaired within a year. Numerous memorials have been constructed, including the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York, the Pentagon Memorial, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

On November 18, 2006, construction of One World Trade Centre began at the World Trade Centre site. As of September 2013, the new tower's concrete construction is largely completed and is likely to be opened in late 2013 or early 2014. The fact remains that 9/11 had unquestionably changed everyone's lives and the course of history in the world.

*Source: September 2013 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## **Terrorist Attack on Indian Parliament – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2001**

### **Indian Parliament Attacked**

On December 13, 2001, the Indian Parliament was in its winter session. At 11.30 in the morning, five armed terrorists belonging to Pakistan-supported Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist groups, drove through the gates of the Parliament House in a white Ambassador car, fitted with an Improvised explosive device.

When they were challenged, they jumped out of the car and opened fire. In the gun battle that followed, all the attackers were killed. Eight security personnel and a gardener were killed too. 22 people were injured.



The police said that the dead terrorists had enough explosives to blow up the Parliament building, and enough ammunition to take on a whole battalion of soldiers. Unlike most terrorists, these five left behind a thick trail of evidences — weapons, mobile phones, phone numbers, ID cards,

photographs, packets of dry fruit, and even a love letter. There were about 100 Members of Parliament in the building at the time, and none was hurt.

### **Prime Minister's TV Speech**

The then Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, made a televised address to the nation shortly after the attacks, and was quick to denounce the militants.

"This was not just an attack on the building. It was a warning to the entire nation." he said. "We accept the challenge."



## Investigations and Arrest

On Dec 14 and 15, investigating agencies, together with the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, captured four people under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) that was in force then. They were Afsal Guru, SAR Geelani, a Delhi University professor, Navjot, also known as Afsan, and her husband, Shaukat Hussain Guru.

Geelani and Afsan were let off and Shaukat Hussain Guru's death sentence was reduced to 10 years' imprisonment. He is now out of jail.

## Death sentence to Afzal Guru

Afzal Guru was sentenced to death on Dec 18, 2002 by a trial court, which the Delhi High Court upheld on Oct 29, 2003. His appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court on Aug 4, 2005. His mercy plea is pending with the President. The Government is yet to take a decision on the mercy petition.

## Government Delaying the Execution

After the hanging of Ajmal Kasab, who was involved in the Mumbai attack, a large section of the Indian population is now demanding the hanging of Afzal Guru, who was the mastermind behind this Parliament attack. The Human Rights' organisations have been protesting against the hanging of Afzal Guru. For fear of Muslim backlash in Kashmir and elsewhere, the Government of India is holding the decision without hanging him.



The citizens desire that there should not be any mercy on terrorists and that all terrorists should be treated as terrorists, irrespective of their caste, creed or religion, because terrorism is beyond all religions and beliefs.

(Afzal Guru was since hanged on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013)

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*  
*Source: December 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

## Mumbai Attack on 26th November 2008 – Remembering Heroes

In November 2008, Pakistan supported Lashkar-e-Taiba sent some terrorists to Mumbai to attack and to create instability in India. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008, these terrorists entered Mumbai through the sea and started their attacks in 8 places commencing from the Chatrapathi Shivaji Railway Terminus. Simultaneously, they attacked the Taj Hotel and the Nariman House, where the Jewish community people lived. 168 innocent people lost their lives. More than 300 people were injured. 19 police and other officials lost their lives in their bid to save the public and the nation.

The Rapid Action Force personnel and Marine Commandos (MARCOS) and the National Security Guards (NSG) commandos did an excellent job to save the lives of the people and to kill the terrorists. 10 Terrorists were shot dead by the commandos. One terrorist by the name, Ajmal Kasab was caught alive. After due judicial process, he was hanged on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 at Pune.



*Source: November 2012 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## **Rajaji – Mahatma Gandhi's Conscience Keeper, History's Forgotten Hero – Part I (Pre- Independence)**

The Indian freedom movement produced many patriotic leaders from all parts of the nation. However, barring a few leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel, the others are not so well-known to the present generation. Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (10th December 1878 – 25th December 1972), popularly known as 'Rajaji' and also as 'CR' is one of those great leaders India has produced. He was supportive behind every movement organised by Mahatma Gandhi.

### **First Person to Recognise M.K. Gandhi's Potential**

After graduating in law, Rajaji began his practice as a criminal lawyer in 1900 at Salem, and even at a young age of 25, he was one of the highest paid lawyers in those days. When M.K. Gandhi (later popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi) was fighting against the South African Government through *Ahimsa* and *Satyagraha*, in 1912, Rajaji distributed pamphlets about Gandhiji's activities. He was probably the first person to recognise Gandhiji's potential for fighting against the British through *Satyagraha*. After Gandhiji returned to India from South Africa, Rajaji was the first leader to support Gandhiji's *Satyagraha* movement in India. Although Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel had met up with Gandhiji before Rajaji had, they were not impressed with Gandhiji's ideas at their first meeting. They accepted him as their leader only after Rajaji did.

### **Fight Against Untouchability and Liquor**

As the Municipal Chairman of Salem (1917-1919), Rajaji fought against untouchability in spite of strong opposition from the upper caste. He also fought against alcoholism. When he subsequently became the Premier of Madras State (as it was called during those days), he brought about an Act permitting the entry of the Dalit community into temples. He also introduced 'prohibition' (of liquor) in the state. Thirty years later, when there was a proposal to reintroduce sale of liquor in the state, he pleaded with the then Chief Minister against this move. Liquor was prohibited for a

generation till then. His plea was rejected and liquor shops were re-opened in the state.



“ Similar to the Sabarmathi Ashram in Gujarat set up by Mahatma Gandhi, Rajaji set up the ‘Gandhi Ashram’ in 1924 in a village near Tiruchengode and lived in a small hut for 10 years with his children. Both these Ashrams played a significant role in India’s freedom movement.

Similar to the Sabarmathi Ashram in Gujarat set up by Mahatma Gandhi, Rajaji set up the ‘Gandhi Ashram’ in 1924 in a village near Tiruchengode and lived in a small hut for 10 years with his children. Both these *Ashrams* played a significant role in India’s freedom movement. Rajaji was a great follower of Gandhiji. On several occasions, Mahatma Gandhi described Rajaji as his ‘conscience keeper’ and also his ‘political heir’.

### Shoulder-to-Shoulder with Mahatma Gandhi

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 1930, Gandhiji started his *Dandi Salt Satyagraha*. On 13<sup>th</sup> April



On 6th April 1930, Gandhiji started his Dandi Salt Satyagraha. On 13th April 1930, Rajaji started his march from Tiruchirapalli to Vedaranyam to collect salt. He was arrested.

1930, Rajaji started his march from Tiruchirapalli to Vedaranyam to collect salt. He was arrested. These two marches galvanised the entire India.

### Visionary Ideas Not Understood

Rajaji was a great visionary. His ideas were always futuristic and he did not worry about the contemporary ideas. Most of the time, his ideas were misunderstood and he was criticised for his revolutionary ideas. It was only

on a later date that people realised the worthiness of his ideas. Rajaji had both admirers and critics for his philosophy. Notwithstanding criticisms, he used to express his views freely, keeping in mind the interest of the nation and the people.

In 1942, when the British Government was engaged in World War II, Mahatma Gandhi announced the 'do or die' slogan and the 'Quit India Movement'. Rajaji at that time had advised against venturing into such aggressive movements, as the Government was engaged in war. He also suggested a friendly dialogue with the Muslim League, in preparation for the country's independence after the world war. Mahatma Gandhi and the other leaders rejected his idea and went ahead with Quit India Movement. Rajaji then resigned from the Congress and returned to Madras.

More than one hundred thousand freedom fighters, including senior leaders, were arrested. The *Ahimsa* movement turned out to be a violent event, in the absence of the leaders to guide the people of the movement. The arrested leaders and freedom fighters were released only in 1945 after the war was over. This was a setback for the freedom movement. Meanwhile, the Muslim League was aggressive in their stand for the partition of India, since there was no Congress leader to engage them in dialogue. It was only then, that the Congress leaders realised that they should have heeded Rajaji's advice. Rajaji returned to the Congress in 1945 at the request of Mahatma Gandhi, to galvanise the freedom movement.

Though there was opposition against partition, Rajaji introduced a formula, popularly known as the 'CR Formula' before independence. Talks were held between the Congress and the Muslim League, based on the CR Formula. Many Congress leaders later felt that if the Quit India Movement had been abandoned and Rajaji's advice followed, the partition would have been smoother and without bloodshed. At a critical time when India's independence was in the vicinity, all the senior Congress leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi were in the jail.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: December 2014 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Rajaji – Part II – His Role in the Post-Independent Era

### Post Independent Era

After India's independence, when communal clashes broke out in West Bengal, Rajaji was requested to be the first Governor of West Bengal with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. He played a major role in curbing the violence. In 1948, he was made the 'Governor General of India' (now renamed the President of India). Rajaji was the last Governor General of India and the only Indian to hold the position. As he was opposed by a section of Congress leaders for his non-participation in the Quit India Movement, he was not made the President of India after 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1950. Pandit Nehru requested Rajaji to help him by joining the cabinet in 1950. Rajaji resigned in 1951 after a misunderstanding with Nehru.



President Rajendra Prasad presenting the Bharat Ratna to C. Rajagopalachari on January 27, 1955.

In 1952, a large number of Communist candidates were elected to the Madras State Assembly (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra and part of Karnataka) and the Congress failed to obtain a majority. This resulted in political instability in the state. Prime Minister Nehru then approached Rajaji to help the Congress by becoming the Chief Minister of Madras State. Rajaji reluctantly took up the position as the Chief Minister of Madras State in 1952.

During his tenure, he brought about strict rules for good governance to function without political interference. He wanted corruption-free governance. He introduced an

education policy known as 'The Modified Scheme of Elementary Education', combining vocational courses with the academics, and with reduced academic hours. He wanted to encourage more children to attend school. At that time, less than 48% of children attended primary schools, and more

than 50% dropped out after primary school. His critics opposed his policy as a 'hereditary education policy' and accused Rajaji of supporting casteism.

A committee of eminent educationists known as the 'Parulekar Committee' endorsed his education policy, and proposed that it be extended to all rural areas. President Rajendra Prasad, Prime Minister Nehru and the Central Advisory Board on Education too appreciated and endorsed the policy scheme. Rajaji defended the scheme saying it was necessary to train the students on various vocational courses, to make the country vibrant and progressive.

His political opponents in the Congress party wanted him to withdraw the scheme. Rajaji preferred to resign from the post, rather than withdraw it. He resigned from his position in 1954. Kamaraj, who succeeded him as Chief Minister withdrew the Scheme. Several years later, India realised the need for more vocational and professional education.

### Leaving Congress

Rajaji was the first recipient of the 'Bharat Ratna' Award, when it was introduced in 1955. Rajaji resigned from the Congress Party due to differences in opinion between him and its members. He founded the 'Swatantra Party' in 1959. In 1967, the Swatantra Party became the second largest party with 44 MPs. Rajaji never contested in the national elections in his political career. When the Congress was leaning towards left, he advocated liberalisation of economy and the removal of the 'License-Quota-Permit Raj'. Although the Congress did not accept his economic policies at that time, they introduced the very same economic policies later in 1991, after 32 years.



C. Rajagopalachari (second from right) and members of the Gandhi Peace Foundation meeting the then American President John F. Kennedy (centre)

In 1967, he formed the first political alliance in India with 7 parties in Tamil Nadu and defeated the Congress, paving the way for DMK to come to power. Thus, even the very powerful leader, Kamaraj was defeated in the elections. It is a different story that later in 1971, he formed an alliance with the Congress(O) led by Kamaraj

to dethrone DMK, but failed.

### **Rajaji as an International Leader**

Rajaji was against nuclear weapons. In 1955, he appealed to the Government of India to refuse American aid if the country continued with its nuclear tests. This embarrassed Pandit Nehru too. Rajaji wrote a book called "Mankind Protests", opposing nuclear weapons. Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, General Secretary, USSR, got it translated into Russian for wide circulation in his country.

In 1962, Rajaji visited USA, along with the members of Gandhi Peace Foundation delegation, in response to President Kennedy's invitation. This was the only foreign visit Rajaji undertook in his lifetime. He was the only civilian not in office, to be given a red carpet reception at the White House. President Kennedy was impressed by his presentation, and he spent more than one hour with him as against the allotted 25 minutes. Rajaji explained to Kennedy the dangers of embarking on an arms race, even one in which USA could win.

### **Multi-Faceted Personality**

Rajaji was a prolific writer and in 1922, he was the editor of 'Young India'. He was a regular contributor of articles on a variety of subjects, to several magazines including 'Kalki' and 'Swarajya' from 1960 till his death. Rajaji authored among others, commentaries on important books like the 'Ramayana', the 'Mahabharatha', the 'Thirukkural' and the 'Bhagavadgita'. These have since been translated into several languages.

Rajaji died on 25th December 1972, after a short illness. It is interesting to know that when Rajaji's parents checked his horoscope at the time of his birth, the astrologer told them that the baby's future included the fortunes of a king, of an exile, of a guru, and of an outcast. The people would worship him; they would also reject him. He would sit on an emperor's throne; he would also live in a poor man's hut.

Rajaji was respected for his immaculate honesty, his integrity and his selfless dedication for the welfare of the poor.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: December 2014 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## **Babasaheb Dr B R Ambedkar - Another Forgotten Legend in Indian History**

With the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891–1956) happening this year, we remember him as yet another legend forgotten in the annals of Indian history. He was the architect of the Indian Constitution, which has stood the test of time, braving various challenges of Indian politics and governance. He was a great philosopher, economist, lawyer, political activist and social reformer.

### **His Early Days - No Peon, No Water**

Bhimrao Ramji Sakpal Ambavadekar (later Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar) was born to a Maratha family, as the 14<sup>th</sup> child to his parents. His community was considered 'untouchable' in the society. As a school student, he underwent much humiliation due to this social practice of caste discrimination. It is distressing to read about his personal experience because of 'untouchability' prevailing then.

Quote

*While in the school, I knew that children of the touchable classes, when they felt thirsty, could go out to the water tap, open it, and quench their thirst. All that was necessary was the permission of the teacher. But my position was separate. I could not touch the tap; and unless it was opened for it by a touchable person, it was not possible for me to quench my thirst. In my case the permission of the teacher was not enough. The*

**If the peon was not available, I had to go without water. The situation can be summed up in the statement—no peon, no water.**

*presence of the school peon was necessary, for he was the only person whom the class teacher could use for such a purpose. If the peon was not available, I had to go without water. The situation can be summed up in the statement—no peon, no water.*

Unquote

Mahadev Ambedkar, his Brahmin teacher was sympathetic towards him and supported him. He changed his original name in the school records from 'Bhimrao Ramji Sakpal Ambavadekar' to 'Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar', adding his own surname of Ambedkar.

With his father's encouragement, Dr Ambedkar completed his graduation in Bombay. Although he was opposed to '*Manu Smriti*', his writings reveal his deep knowledge of the ancient scriptures, Vedas and the Upanishads. Even in the Constituent Assembly, he favoured Sanskrit as the national language, although it was not accepted by the majority.



**Sayajirao Gaekwad III**

### **Support from the Baroda Ruler**

Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the ruler of Baroda was a social reformer who supported poor students from the 'depressed class' (untouchables). When he met Bhimrao Ambedkar, he recognised his potential and offered him a scholarship to study abroad. Ambedkar completed his studies, including a doctorate at the Columbia University (USA), and at the London School of Economics (UK). In spite of the caste discriminations and untouchability practices, some good-hearted people like Mahadev Ambedkar and Sayaji Rao III recognised Ambedkar's potential and helped him to move to the higher levels in academics. Ambedkar proved to be an outstanding student wherever he studied.

On his return to India, he served the Baroda ruler for some time. In 1918, he became the Professor of Political Economy at the Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics in Bombay. Even though he was popular with the students, the professors objected to his reformist activities such as sharing the same drinking-water jug that they all used.

### Round Table Conference

The British Government invited leaders from different political parties to the Round Table Conferences held in 1930-32, to draft a new Constitution



**Dr Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi in the Round Table Conference**

leading to the self-rule by Indians. Dr Ambedkar attended all the three Round Table Conferences. Mahatma Gandhi did not attend the first Conference due to a difference in opinion with Dr Ambedkar. During the First Round Table Conference held in November 1930, Dr Ambedkar proposed the concept of a 'Separate Electorate' for the 'Depressed

Class' (Untouchables). He argued that the problems faced by the untouchables were not social problems but political

problems. More than 20% of India's population were from the untouchables category. Dr Ambedkar pleaded that the problems of such a sizeable portion of the population could not be ignored. He wanted a proportionate political power to resolve the issue. He suggested a 'Separate Electorate' for the Depressed Class, meaning thereby that their representatives could be elected only by the untouchables and not by all the others. He even quoted from the Mahabharata that the kings and the ministers therein were from all communities, (including Sudras, which is equivalent to the socially deprived class).

Since Mahatma Gandhi held a different view, he did not agree with the suggestion. He opposed it in the Second Round Table Conference. He feared that allowing a 'Separate Electorate' might divide the Hindu community further. He believed in a change in the social mindset of the people to eradicate untouchability.

**Poona Pact**

British Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald made an Award in 1932 known as the 'Communal Award', providing 'Separate Electorate for Muslims, Christians, Upper Caste Hindus, Lower Caste Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Depressed Class'. The Depressed Class (Untouchables) could then elect their own representatives to the various provinces under the British rule. This was opposed by Mahatma Gandhi on the ground that it would disintegrate the Hindus. Gandhi was then in Pune Yerwada prison. He went on an indefinite fast from 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 1932 against the 'Separate Electorate' for Depressed Class. After some lengthy negotiations, Ambedkar and Gandhi reached an agreement on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1932 to have a single Hindu electorate, with Untouchables having seats reserved within it. This is called the 'Poona Pact'. The text uses the term "Depressed Classes" to denote Untouchables. It was later called the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the India Act 1935, and then the Indian Constitution of 1950.

**Reserve Bank Conceptualised**

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1st April 1935 to address the economic troubles of the nation after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr Ambedkar as written in his book, "The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution."

**Forming Political Party**

In 1936, Ambedkar founded the Independent Labour Party, which contested in the 1937 Bombay elections to the Central Legislative Assembly for the 13 reserved and 4 general seats and securing 11 and 3 seats respectively. Right from 1916, Dr Ambedkar began uniting all the untouchables in India. In July 1942, he organised a national conference at Nagpur under the banner of Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF). More than 75,000 scheduled caste people, including 25,000 women participated. In his historic speech, he demanded self respect and freedom. Later, SCF transformed itself into the Republican Party of India (RPI).

**Joining the Government**

In 1942, he was invited to join Viceroy's Executive Council as Labour Member with three additional portfolios. As Labour Member, he influenced

the British to concede 13% representation to Scheduled Caste (SC). The British gave just 8.33%. (Later, while writing the Constitution, he made a provision of 15% for SCs.) He continued in this position till 1946. He was responsible for reducing the working hours of labourers from 12 hours to 8. He also introduced the concept of Provident Fund and Dearness Allowance. He created the employment exchanges. He introduced maternity leave for women. As a believer of free market, he introduced the Gold Standard. He was the brain behind the Hirakud Dam and the Damodar Valley Project. He was also the brain behind the India's Water Policy and the Electric Power Planning.

### Constituent Assembly



**Dr Ambedkar with Members of Drafting Committee**

Under the Cabinet Mission Plan 1946 of the British Government, a Constituent Assembly was set up in 1946 in the then undivided India to frame the Constitution for India. The members were elected from different provinces. Since

Dr Ambedkar could not be elected from Mumbai, he was elected from East Bengal with the help of the Muslim League. These districts were later identified for inclusion in Pakistan. To prevent Dr Ambedkar from leaving the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad (President of the Constituent Assembly) wrote a letter on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1947 to the then Prime Minister of Maharashtra (as he was called then) to get him elected from Maharashtra Province. Thus, he got elected to the Constituent Assembly again.

He was made the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1947. Although there were 7 members in the Committee, he was

practically the only one shouldering the entire responsibility and burden of drafting.

The Draft Constitution was presented by Dr Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly and was discussed and adopted by the Members. The Constitution was adopted in its complete form on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949 and came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950, which is celebrated as the Republic Day of India. While adopting the Constitution, all the members praised the extraordinary work done by Dr Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution.

Dr Ambedkar served as India's first Law Minister from 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 in the Nehru Cabinet. Due to his differences of opinion on the Hindu Code Bill, which deprived equal rights to women, he resigned from the cabinet in September 1951.

### **Defeated in the Elections**

During the first General Elections in 1951 to Lok Sabha, he contested from Bombay North, but lost to a little known Congress candidate, Narayan Kajrolkar, who was once his assistant.

He became a Member of Rajya Sabha as a nominated member in 1952 and continued as a member till his death.



**Dr Ambedkar and his wife during 'Dhamma Diksha' at Nagpur**

In 1954, he contested again in a by-election held in Bombay Bandra. Here too, he was placed third and lost to a Congress candidate.

Sadly, Dr Ambedkar could not sit in the First Lok Sabha, the Constitution for which was created by

him. The Second General Election was held in 1957 after his death in 1956. He could therefore not enter the Lok Sabha at all.

## Conversion to Buddhism

He declared his intention to convert to another religion, public as a large section of the society was treated as untouchable by the Hindu section. Although Christians and Muslims approached him convert to their religion, he preferred Buddhism. On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1956, Ambedkar, along with his wife, converted to Buddhism in the presence of a monk. Thereafter, he persuaded thousands of people of the Scheduled Caste to convert to Buddhism. He passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1956 in his sleep.

## His Bold Views

He was a great scholar and philosopher. He was bold in expressing his views.



**Media Report – Dr Ambedkar for Sanskrit as Official Language of India**

He preferred Sanskrit as the National Official Language. However, it was not approved in the Constituent Assembly. When Prime Minister Nehru wanted him to draft Article 370, he refused as he felt that it would be against the interest of the nation.

While all the modern historians argued in favour of the Aryan theory, he wrote that there was no race by that name. He also said that the theory that Aryans invaded India through Khyber Pass was false.

He openly criticised Mahatma Gandhi on various issues and even wrote a book titled 'What Congress and Gandhi have done to the untouchables'. In response to this book, Rajaji and K Santhanam wrote a book 'Ambedkar refuted', defending Mahatma Gandhi.

## Forgotten Legend

There could be several people who had differences of opinion with Dr Ambedkar. But no one can deny the fact that Dr Ambedkar formed his views, based on his own experiences and despite the harassment he faced in the society. But for this legendary personality, India would not have got the time-tested and the much-acclaimed Constitution. Due to various reasons, he was not fairly recognised in the past by the Government and by the society. In 1990, he was conferred the Bharat Ratna Award posthumously, under pressure from political parties.



The Indian society little supported the architect of Modern India when he was alive. It is time to stand up and salute him for his exemplary contribution to Modern India because although Dr Ambedkar was an 'exclusive member', belonging to the 'Depressed Class', his lifelong work, activities and contribution were inclusive and to the benefit of the nation as a whole.

In response to an RTI activist, Rusen Kumar (Raipur), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting disclosed recently that a documentary film on Dr Ambedkar

made by the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra 14 years ago, is yet to be telecast through Doordarshan for public viewing.

The Indian society little supported the architect of Modern India when he was alive. It is time to stand up and salute him for his exemplary contribution to Modern India because although Dr Ambedkar was an 'exclusive member', belonging to the 'Depressed Class', his lifelong work, activities and contribution were inclusive and to the benefit of the nation as a whole.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

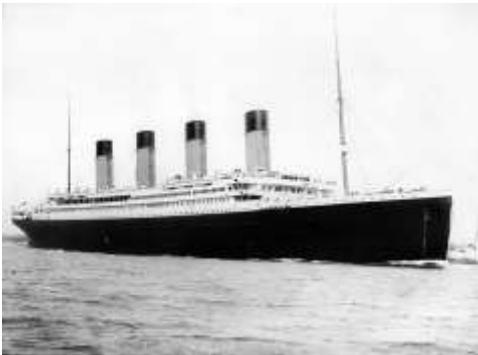
*Source: April 2015 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Lessons from the Sunken Titanic

*"Well boys, you've done your duty and done it well. .... It's every man for himself now, and God bless you.... Be British."*

These were purportedly the last words of Edward Smith, Captain of the historic ship, RMS Titanic, which sank soon thereafter in the early hours of April 15, 1912 in the icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Ironically, this voyage was supposed to be Captain



**RMS Titanic departing Southampton  
on April 10, 1912**

Smith's final one as he was on his final journey before retirement from service. The wreckage of the Titanic was discovered in 1985, on the sea bed around 12,500 feet below the surface, about 370 miles off the coast of Newfoundland in North America.

When RMS Titanic set sail on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New

York, on April 10, 1912, she was considered the ultimate passenger liner – unparalleled in

luxury, size and technology, so much so that the crew thought it 'unsinkable'. On April 14, 1912, she hit an iceberg at 11:40 p.m. The collision caused the ship's hull plates to buckle inward along her starboard side and open five of her sixteen watertight compartments to the sea. The ship sank slowly but surely.

Whatever be the mysteries that went under with the ship, the disaster has since been examined as case studies with valuable management lessons to learn from.

### 1. Preparedness for Crisis

Titanic was built with advanced safety features such as watertight compartments and remotely activated watertight doors. The ship therefore, did not equip with a sufficient number of lifeboats to accommodate all who were on board. During the rescue mission, several of the boats were released to the sea with only half its capacity of people filled.

**Lesson Learnt:** Critical crisis management training and preparedness is essential for a company to rise to the challenge of any crisis. Such training is directed towards creating situational leaders, with the ability to take appropriate decisions independently during the crisis.

## 2. Reality Check

When the iceberg hit Titanic, it punched holes in the ship's steel plates, allowing water to flood the ship's six compartments. It was later discovered from the ship's ruins salvaged from the ocean that the steel used were of substandard quality.

**Lesson Learnt:** Any compromise in the quality of staff, process, product and security systems even at the base level could cost a company dearly. As they say, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

## 3. Misplaced Confidence

*"Not even God could sink this ship".*

This was the verdict given by an employee about RMS Titanic. That confidence turned out to be arrogance when the ship broke into two and sank like a paper boat.



**The Washington Post announces the disaster**

**Lesson Learnt:** Organisations should have constant reality checks to ensure that their confidence in their company's systems or performance is based on factual back-up, and is not simply built on an optimism that disregards telling facts.

## 4. The Greatest Risk Often Lies Beneath

The greatest dangers lie unseen below the surface of the obvious. That night in 1912, the Pacific water was smooth like glass and deceptively dangerous. When the iceberg, which lurked below the waters tore the ship's hull, it was the crew working below, who saw the damage first before the first class passengers and the upper deck crew realised the gravity of the situation.

**Lesson Learnt:** Often, it is the alert staff working hands-on at the base level, who are first to be aware of the tell-tale signs of distress in a company. The feedback from these workers must be recognised in the company. They may also be best equipped with the practical solution or safeguard.



**A 102-year-old letter from the chief engineer of Titanic to his son has revealed that the ship almost collided with two other vessels as it left Southampton to begin its doomed voyage**

### 5. Fast is Not Always Best

RMS Titanic was speeding on its cruise. When the iceberg was spotted, the ship had about 30 seconds to steer away from it. The high speed at which it cruised was an impediment in manoeuvring the ship safely away from it.

**Lesson Learnt:** Companies often take the fast track to compete in the market. If it is not backed by awareness of the big picture in which the company is functioning, the

company finally lands in an unexpected crash in the market.

### 6. Priorities in Place

RMS Titanic provided a wireless telegraph for the convenience of its passengers as well as for operational use. The wireless operators, inundated with the personal messages to send, became overworked and tired. This turned out to be critical.

Around 11:30 p.m. on April 14, when Titanic's wireless operator received a warning of an iceberg ahead, he ignored it. Later on, when he relayed the message, "*We have struck iceberg....sinking fast....come to our assistance*", the wireless operator on the nearby ship, had retired for the night, after being rebuffed about his iceberg warning. When the rescue ship finally arrived two hours later, only about 705 passengers could be rescued.

**Lesson Learnt:** Companies must not lose focus of its core mission and activity and be carried away by commercially more flamboyant activities or expenses. Some companies risk strained bottom lines, diverting money to items of administrative nature instead of operational essentials.

RMS Titanic might have sunk to the doleful music of "Nearer My God To Thee" as its swan song, played on the deck by the ship's band. Companies that ignore such crucial lessons, risk losing out on the big picture and into their swan songs.

*With inputs from*

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*By Susan Koshy, Editor*

*Source: April 2015 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Netaji Files to Re-write History - West Bengal Government Declassifies 64 'Netaji Files'



**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

In an historic event, Mamta Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, declassified 64 files (12,744 pages) relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, in the possession of her Government. Although it is regarded a political 'master stroke' by Mamta, the Central Government is put in embarrassment. It is estimated that around 60,000 pages of 'Netaji Files' are classified. It is also reported that 41 files are with the Prime Minister's Office; 27 files are with Ministry of External Affairs

and 77 files are with Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India. While the family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra

Bose have been pressurising the Indian Government to declassify all 'Netaji Files', in August 2015, the Indian Government had decided not to declassify the files, as they considered it might hamper the relationship with some foreign countries. Netaji admirers and family members questioned how foreign relationship could be hampered by the declassification. In this background, Mamta's decision to release the 64 files in the custody of West Bengal Government, assumes serious significance.

### Netaji's Death and the Mystery

In 1945, a news item appeared in a Japanese paper that Netaji lost his life in an air crash on 18th August 1945. Netaji's death itself is one of the most controversial issues debated since 1945.

Netaji's admirers accuse Nehru of undermining the importance of Netaji in India's freedom movement, as Nehru and Netaji were in opposite camps. The



**Japan Paper dated 23 Aug 1945**

declassified files bring out earlier undisclosed documents to conclude that Netaji was alive in 1949.

### **Netaji's Family Snooped Even After Independence**

Some of the documents disclose that the Central Government was snooping around Netaji's family members till 1971 and intercepting their mail through the Post Office. Netaji followers state that the Indian National Army (INA) members who fought against the British under the leadership of Netaji are not recognised for pension or privileges as freedom fighters. Although Gandhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose differed in their approach towards the freedom struggle, no one can underestimate the contribution made by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in getting the British Government to decide to grant freedom to India. The Bengalis had felt hurt when Netaji was sidelined by the Nehru Government, and Netaji's family members were snooped by the Intelligence agencies. The death of Netaji, and the reasons for snooping around Netaji family members till 1971, even decades after India getting freedom, remain a mystery.

The Soviet Union, which was in existence when Netaji was reported dead in 1945, is now totally disintegrated. The Labour Party which was in power then, is not in power now in England. Hence, some of the political parties and Netaji's followers question the wisdom of the Indian Government in not declassifying the remaining files on the flimsy reason of foreign relations getting affected. They suspect that it might only defame Nehru and the Congress Party.

To resolve the mystery of Netaji's death, various Committees were formed at various times.

### **The Figges Report, 1946**

When Netaji was declared dead in an air crash in 1945, the British Government had set up an investigating team. They visited the INA offices and the spot. Colonel Figges submitted a report in July 1946. At the same time, a military intelligence report was also submitted. Although they confirmed Netaji's death, the supporting documents submitted by them differed in facts, including the time and date of death. Even though this report has not been officially released, it was released anonymously after 1997. This report was prepared by the British Government before Indian Independence.

### **Shah Nawaz Commission, 1956**

As the Government of India had not taken any initiative to enquire into the death of Netaji after independence, some eminent citizens decided to start an unofficial probe. In response, Pandit Nehru appointed an official committee headed by Shah Nawaz Khan. He included Netaji's elder brother, Suresh Bose in the Committee. The Government made available some of the secret files to this Committee. This Commission confirmed the official version that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in Taipei. Suresh Bose filed a dissenting report alleging that Khan was influenced by Nehru to stick to the official line.

### **Khosla Commission, 1970**

The Indian government later set up a one-man inquiry commission, consisting of Justice G D Khosla, a retired judge of the Punjab High Court. He submitted his report only in 1974. Once again, Khosla concurred with the earlier reports.

### **Mukherjee Commission, 1999-2005**

The Justice Mukherjee Commission was formed in 1999. The commission produced a report that ran into three volumes and thousands of pages, and was made public in 2006. The Mukherjee Commission Report concluded that Bose did not die in the air crash of 1945. His death and his cremation were engineered with the cooperation of the Japanese military authorities. The government rejected the report.



**De-classified files by West Bengal Government**

### **Cabinet Secretary's Committee, 2015**

Since the classified documents contain information about his death, Netaji admirers and family members have been demanding the declassification. To review and decide on the declassification, a committee was set up in April 2015 headed by Ajit Seth, Cabinet Secretary, including officials from Intelligence agencies. Although the report is not available to the public, the

Central Government has now decided not to declassify the 'Netaji files' in the custody of Central Government on the grounds of 'national security'.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death is shrouded in mystery and much fantasy is propagated as facts. According to Sugata Bose MP, a grandnephew of Netaji, declassification might not disclose anything significant, but could reveal the dishonourable things done by the upper echelons of India's post-Independence Government. Definitely, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose deserved a better treatment in India.

### **Forgotten Hero**

In 1992, the Government of India decided to honour Netaji with the highest civilian Award, 'Bharat Ratna'. The family members felt offended that while Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were given Bharat Ratna in 1955, 1971 and 1991, Netaji was considered after 45 years of Independence. Further, they also objected to his death not being confirmed by the Government officially. For these reasons, the family members rejected the Bharat Ratna Award.

Declassification of the remaining 'Netaji files' may create more ripples in Indian politics.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: Sep 2015 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Forgotten Heroes of our Freedom Struggle



**Shri Arya  
Bhashyam, who  
hoisted the Indian  
Tricolour, after  
removing the  
Union Jack in 1932  
– a rare photo**

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016, India celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. During the freedom struggle, many patriots had come out and fought against the British Raj, spending the prime of their youth in prisons. These patriots had also contributed to the independence and freedom we now enjoy. Their families suffered. Many of these patriots' grandchildren lead very simple lives. Sadly, but for a few top national leaders, several thousands of great men and women are not even known to the present generation.

The media, especially the television channels rarely talk about the freedom struggle and the sufferings of these great men and women who struggled for this freedom. During the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations, the mainstream freedom fighters are lauded, with no mention about the true UnSung Heroes. Our school text books too recognise only a couple of the leaders of the Independence period. Many citizens across the country prefer to spend these national holidays entertaining themselves.

Many Indians are under the impression that our National Flag has been flying atop only since 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. Very few are aware that on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1932 at 2 am, someone had dared to bring down the Union Jack and hoist the Indian Tricolour at the prestigious flag post of Fort St. George at Madras. This was by a 25-year-old vibrant youth named Arya K Bhashyam.

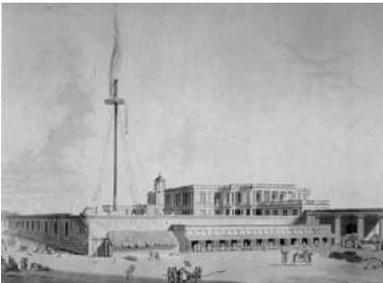
In 1919, as a young 12-year-old student, K Bhashyam (Arya was his pen name) was disturbed to hear about the massacre of hundreds of innocent people at Jallianwala Bagh by General Dyre. He was also inspired by Vanchinathan, who shot and killed Collector Ashe in 1911 and later killed himself at Maniyachi Railway station. Bhashyam purchased four pistols secretly to kill the then Governor of Madras Province and later shoot himself. However, when he stood before the Governor face to face, ready to shoot him, a spark crossed his mind and he resolved not to resort to violence, but follow Mahatma Gandhi.

Spurred by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's vision of *Swaraj*, Bhashyam became a firebrand revolutionary and dared several feats protesting against the British colonial rule. He was imprisoned several times and tortured by the police.

The Fort St. George, Madras was built in 1644 by the British rulers as their first fortress in India. In 1687, they erected a 148-foot high flag post made of teakwood to stand as the tallest in the country. The Union Jack used to be hoisted on that flag post everyday. The British considered these two among the most prestigious emotional accomplishments by them.

26<sup>th</sup> January was considered the *Swarajya* Day by the Congress leaders then. Bhashyam wanted to hoist the Indian Tricolour on the Flag Post on Swarajya Day in 1932. Two days in advance, he personally made a large tricolour flag, using his *dhoti* and wrote in Tamil “இன்றிலிருந்து இந்தியா சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தது” (“From today India has attained independence”). He tied the tricolour *dhoti* on his waist to skip the notice of the security personnel. In the early hours of 26<sup>th</sup> January 1932 at 2 am, he arrived at the flag post. Arya Bhashyam shinned up the 148-foot flag post, removed the Union Jack from the ropes and hoisted the Indian tricolour. The Union Jack was torn into pieces.

No doubt, seeing the Indian tricolour flying atop the flag post infuriated the British and two days later, they arrested Arya Bhashyam and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment in the Central Jail. He was treated as a ‘dangerous prisoner’ and kept in quarantine. Netaji Subash Chandra Bose was also brought to the Madras prison during that time. Both Arya Bhashyam and Netaji became close associates.



In an exclusive interview to the All India Radio during 1970s, Arya Bhashyam described the torture he faced with the police in the jail. He said he was given 30 lashes for questioning their atrocities. He continued to shout ‘*Vandemataram*’ while he was being given the lashes by the police.

**Fort St George and the Teakwood Flag  
Staff (100 years ago)**

Bhashyam was an artist and sculptor. After independence, he returned to a quiet and simple life. He refused the pension given to freedom fighters. He died in 1999 at the age of 93.

The Indian tricolour was hoisted in all the states, including Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. But Bhashyam accomplished this, way back in 1932.

Today, only a few records have registered his achievements. With great effort, *PreSense* traced his only available photograph. The teakwood flag post was replaced in 1994 with a steel replica by the State Government.

In every district of the country, there were thousands of such Arya Bhashyams, who are not known to the present generation. Both the Central and the State Governments should initiate efforts to identify these UnSung warriors and inform about their contributions, for the knowledge of the present generation. *PreSense* salutes these great men and women, who had contributed to India's freedom.

*Jai Hind*

*By Prime Point Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*  
*Source: August 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Remembering Shaheed Bhagat Singh



**Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru**

Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru were hanged to death on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1931 by the British Government.

Bhagat Singh was one of the most influential freedom fighters of the Indian freedom struggle. The title 'Shaheed' meaning 'martyr' most often precedes his name. Shaheed Bhagat Singh was a martyr who inspired the youth of the country to take part in the Indian independence movement.

Bhagat Singh was born into a Sikh family on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1907 at Jaranwala Tehsil in Punjab. He was born into a family of revolutionaries. His birth coincided with the release of his father and uncles from jail. They had been imprisoned for carrying out anti-British activities.

Bhagat Singh's grandfather was a follower of *Arya Samaj*, the religious reform movement founded by Swami Dayanand Sarasvati. The young Bhagat Singh joined the Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School for his education.

At the age of 12 years, Bhagat Singh was greatly moved by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919, when thousands of people who had gathered at a peaceful public meeting were shot dead by the British. This tragic event sowed revolutionary sentiments in the mind of Bhagat Singh.

At the age of 14 years, Bhagat Singh was witness to another gruesome incident when a large number of unarmed people were killed by the colonial dictators at Nankana Sahib Gurudwara.

Thus, apart from being born into a family of revolutionaries, these violent incidents perpetuated by the British ensured that Bhagat Singh would also become a revolutionary at a young age. Bhagat Singh soon became a part of the Young Revolutionary Movement to defeat the colonial rulers. In March 1926, Bhagat Singh founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha (Youth Society of

India). The Youth Society of India sought to bring together youth peasants and labourers against the British.

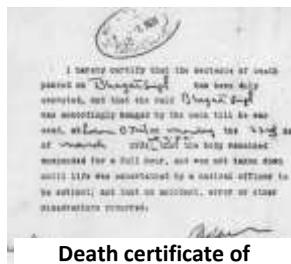
When his family wanted him married, Bhagat Singh ran away from home, leaving behind a letter which read, *"My life is dedicated to noblest of causes, that of freedom of the country. So there is no worldly desire that can lure me now."*



**Death warrant of Bhagat Singh**

Lajpat Rai. Immediately after this, he went with Batukeshwar Dutt, another revolutionary, and threw bombs into the Central Legislative Assembly.

Bhagat Singh was soon imprisoned by the British. Even in jail, he continued his struggle, by undergoing a 4-month fast, seeking equal rights for Indian prisoners on the lines of British prisoners. Bhagat Singh was convicted by the British for carrying out the murder of John Saunders and was hanged on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1931, along with Sukdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru.



**Death certificate of Bhagat Singh**

Bhagat Singh today finds a place in Indian Parliament in the form of a large bronze statue. There are innumerable memorials of Bhagat Singh at different parts of the country. There are many films on his life and stamps released in his name. He continues to be a source of inspiration for the youth of this country.

*By D K Hari and D K Hema Hari [www.bharathgyan.com](http://www.bharathgyan.com)*

*Source : March 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Section III: Indian Heritage**



## **Kumbha Mela is the Confluence of Knowledge, Comparable with Modern Day Seminars of Experts**

### **Purpose**



The Kumbha Mela is one of the oldest and largest congregations of Indian civilisation. In a sense, it is more a congregation than a festival.

The intention for the *Kumbha Mela* in the ancient days was for the rulers, the common people and the *Sanyasis* to gather at a confluence of water bodies, stay

for a period of three months and during that period, discuss the various aspects of *Sanatana Dharma*, its interpretations, its relevance for their present times, the problems that were faced by the society of that generation and the solutions for them within *Dharma*. This can be broadly compared with the modern day National and International Seminars on various themes bringing together various stakeholders under a single roof for discussions.

The *Snanas* (holy bath) that are taken on astrologically significant days are just ritual highlights. The primary objective of the *Kumbh* festival was to enable interactions among the rulers, the people and the *sadhus*.

In the *Kumbh* festival we see the connect between (a) the allegorical Puranic legend of creation from a *kumbh*, pot, (b) the traditional Vedic explanation of creation and (c) the modern cosmological scientific description of creation from the Big Bang.

### **Historical reference**

There is mention of the *Kumbh* and the bathing ritual associated with it, in the Rig Veda (verse 10.89.7). It speaks of the values of bathing in the river during this period and how it eliminates negative influences and rejuvenates

one positively, when done with piety. The praying to the *Kumbha* is also expressed in other Vedas such as *Atharva Veda* and *Yajur Veda*. This tells us that the concept of *Kumbha* and what it portrays has been venerated from Vedic times itself which goes back to at least 5100 years.

We learn this from the accounts of both Huan Tsang or Xuanzang (602 - 664 CE), the Chinese traveller who visited India between 629 - 645 CE, during the reign of King Harshavardhana, as well as from Harshacharita, of Bana, the court poet in the kingdom of Harshavardhana. This act of Emperor Harshavardhana reflects the ethos of the land, of giving *Dhana* at such confluences.



Even as recent as 1895, Mark Twain, the celebrated author, wrote his experience of visiting the *Kumbh Mela* in his book "**Following the Equator: A journey Around the World**". The *Kumbh* festival was instituted and popularised by some of the ancient kings and saints as an occasion for congregating to discuss about creation as well as scientific and governance concepts. This festival was given the present format by Adi Shankara. Since then, for the last 2500 years, it has been celebrated in this format.

### **Types of Kumbh Mela**

There are three types of *Kumbha Mela*: (1) *Ardha Kumbha Mela*, celebrated once every six years at Haridwar and Prayag, (2) *Purna Kumbha Mela*, which takes place every twelve years at four places in Prayag, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik and (3) *Maha* (Great) *Kumbha Mela* which comes after twelve *Purna Kumbha Melas* or 144 years, and is celebrated only in Prayag.

2013 *Maha Kumbh Mela* is celebrated from Sankaranthi day to Sivarathri. More than 100 million persons are expected to participate in this Kumbh Mela. This is the world's largest congregation.

*Input courtesy: D K Hari and D K Hema Hari, Bharath Gyan*

*Source: February 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Electoral System in Ancient India

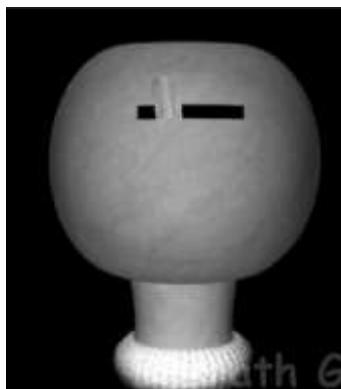
The concept of People's Republic (*Janapada*) has been in existence in India since ancient times. Historical evidence in the form of inscriptions was found on the walls of the village temples in South India. These inscriptions in the village of Uttaramerur in Tamil Nadu indicate the existence of electoral systems and electoral code of conduct. They date back to the reign of the Chola King, Parantaka Deva Parkesari Varman between 907 to 955 CE. Scholars are of the view that while village assemblies might have existed even before the period of Parantaka Chola, it was during his reign that the village administration was honed into a perfect system through elections.

The inscriptions throw light on the mode of election and governance. The village assembly or panchayat consisted of 30 wards. The period of the assembly was one year. The area of operation of the village assembly, viz. the panchayat, included the village sabha - Grama Sabha, garden sabha - Thotam Sabha and tank sabha - Eri Sabha.

The inscriptions also give details about the constitution of the wards, the qualification of the candidates standing for elections, the disqualification norms, the mode of election, the constitution of committees with elected members, the functions of those committees, the power to remove the wrongdoer, and so on. The villagers even had the right to recall the elected representatives if they failed in their duty.

The election ballot was in the form of a pot, in which the electors cast their votes for the candidates of their choice. Each person's preferred vote was inscribed on a palm leaf and dropped into the ballot pot.

Some of the qualifying criteria for candidates, standing for elections were that they should know Mantrabrahmana, be well read, have general knowledge to teach others, be conversant with business and should not have been on any other committee for the previous three years. Only those



in the age group of 35 to 70 could contest elections. They had also prescribed a minimum land or property holding to be eligible for contesting.

Those charged for crime were barred from standing as electoral candidates for life. The kith and kin of candidates standing for elections were not eligible to stand for elections.

These inscriptions reflect a far superior practice of democracy and a fair system of elections and governance in the ancient times, as against the flawed practices that prevail these days.

*By Susan Koshy, Editor, PreSense  
with input from D K Hari, Bharath Gyan  
Source: March 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **How Vedas Were Transmitted over Thousands of Years**

Veda is the recording by various Rishis over a period of thousands of years. The four Vedas, viz. Rig, Yajur, Sama and Adarvana Vedas are a treasure trove of knowledge. The Veda was compiled on the banks of the Saraswathi River as this river is mentioned in 72 different places in the Veda.

### **Veda Vysya, the Compiler**

Approximately 5100 years ago, (around 3100 BCE), Rishi Krishna Dwaipayana, also known as Veda Vyasa, compiled the Vedas which was shared across various parts of the country, including some of the present neighbouring countries. Since then, the Vedas are transmitted down to our time orally. Hence, Veda is called ' Sruthi' - that which is heard and repeated.

Max Muller, a German Scholar was the first person to publish the Rig Veda in the 1860s. Max Muller described the sacred hymns as unparalleled in the literature of the whole world and their preservation as miraculous.

### **How Vedas were Transmitted over Thousands of Years**

The unique aspect of Vedas is that the Samhitas (stanza) are recited verbatim even today, as it was recited 5000 years ago. On analysing, it was found that each Samhita or stanza of the Vedas was transmitted by 10 different methods, known as 'Pata' to maintain its purity. They are divided into 2 simple methods and 8 special methods called Ashta Vikriti.

Simple Pata - *Pada Pata and Krama Pata*

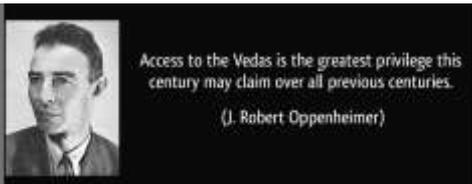
Ashta Vikriti- *Jata Pata, Mala Pata, Sikha Pata, Rekha Pata, Dhawaja Pata, Danda Pata, Ratha Pata, Ghana Pata*

These 10 Pata recitations ensure that their purity is preserved. The recitation of the 10 Pata also acts as a self error-correcting methodology. Krishna Dwaipayana framed these 10 techniques so that its knowledge is etched in the minds of those who recite them. It is the oral system of knowledge transmission that has withstood the test of time.

**Beyond Religion**

The Veda text does not speak about the Gods in the way we relate to them now. They speak about the divinities only as natural phenomena.

In the last couple of thousand years, various scholars have understood and relished the Veda more from a religious perspective. There is also a very scientific way of looking at the Veda without the connotation of the religious gods.



A few scientists who have had the good fortune of going through the Vedas have realised this. Professor J Robert Oppenheimer who is considered the father of the American Nuclear Bomb, said

"access to the Veda is the greatest privilege, this century may claim over all previous centuries."

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief  
with input courtesy of D K Hari, Bharath Gyan  
Source: August 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Nalanda University

Nalanda University in Bihar, India was an ancient centre for higher learning. It was constructed in the 5th century C.E and was supported by the patronage of the Gupta rulers, the Pala Kings and others in that region. The



site is located near the then Capital city, Patna, and was a religious centre of learning for a very long period. There were over 10,000 students studying there with nearly 1500 teaching scholars.

In the name Nalanda, Nalan means lotus and this flower symbolises Knowledge. Lotus is the flower that we use to relate to Goddess Saraswathy – The goddess of knowledge and arts. Buddha had stayed there on two occasions and hence this place was chosen. A Buddhist monk who visited Buddha, began to preach Buddhism, and a monastery was started. After the demise of this monk, his stupa was erected here. This place was close to Pataliputra- capital of Magadha Kingdom and with the support of the kingdom, the monastery was expanded to a university in a period of 400 years.

The University complex was built with red bricks. The area of the present excavation site is 14 hectares which is about one-tenth of the space of University. During its peak time, the university attracted scholars and students from as far away as Tibet, China (the land to the east), Suwarnabhoomi – Indonesia, Champa – Vietnam, Philippines, Afghanistan, Yavana - Greece, and Persia. Each block situated at the perimeter, had residential rooms and the central yard held the teaching rooms. There were many temples for Buddha and Surya – The Sun God. “Dwarapanditha” was the test conducted for admitting the students to the University. The tests were so vigorous that the success rate was 1 out of every 5. A similar practice is applied by the educational institutions and corporates in different forms nowadays.

The Nalanda University was destroyed three times on different occasions. The University was refurbished after the first two attacks. The third time, it was ransacked and destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1193 C.E and was not revived. The great library of the Nalanda University was so vast that it is reported to have continued burning for a very long time after the invaders set fire to it, ransacked and destroyed the monasteries, and killed the monks at the site.

The value of the University was well recognised and the very concept of 'university' went to Persia, Arabia and the West only after the Nalanda University. Hence this place is marked as an important archaeological site of India today.

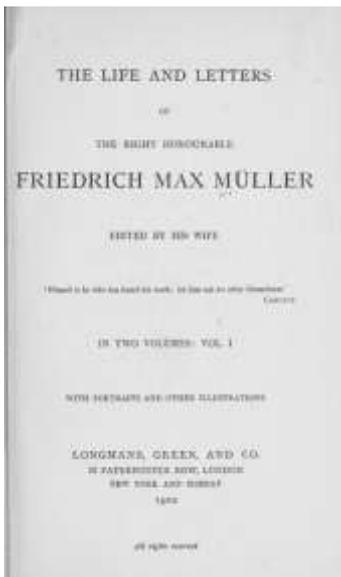
*By Sukruti A Vadula, Editorial Member  
with input from D K Hari, Bharath Gyan  
Source: October 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## The First 'Phonograph' was Tested with 'Rig Veda', which Passed through Thousands of Years in a Phonographic Way

*Quoted verbatim from the book: The life and letters of the Right*

Honourable Friedrich Max Muller; ed. by his wife (1902) – Published by



London Longmans, Green 48 The Bell Telephone [ch. Xxm] (relates to the year 1878). Just before going to London to deliver his last lecture, Max Muller had asked his friends in Oxford to meet Mr. Graham Bell, the inventor of the Bell telephone, which preceded Edison's more perfect instrument. It was the first of its type ever heard in England. A large company gathered together, and intense interest and surprise were felt by everyone, including the scientific men present, little dreaming of the immense practical importance of the invention, and the possibility of the almost limitless extension now attained to. Mr. Bell also brought down a microphone, only just invented, and a phonograph. The wire of the telephone was stretched from one end

of the garden to the other, and even a whisper was distinctly heard. The wire of the microphone was brought from a room on the second story, and the sound made by a fly crawling along a board in the room upstairs sounded in the garden like the tramp of an elephant. The phonograph was not good, and even one person at a time found it difficult to make out what it repeated. The following week, in London, Max Muller was asked to speak into a better instrument. The scene has been well described by Mr. Moncure Conway:

'When the phonograph was invented, one of its first appearances was at the house of J.Fletcher Moulton, Q.C. (now M.P). A fashionable company, among them some eminent men of science and men of letters, gathered

round the novelty, and Max Muller was the first called on to utter something in the phonograph. We presently heard, emanating from it these sounds: "Agnim i/e purohitam ya^;asya devam r/tvi^am — hotaram ratnadhatamam."

There was a burst of merriment when these queer sounds came from the machine, but a deep silence when Max Muller explained that we had heard words from the oldest hymn in the world, the first (if I remember rightly) in the Rig-veda:

"Agni I worship; the chief priest of the sacrifice, the divine priest, the invoker, conferring the greatest wealth." And then the young people gathered around the smiling scholar, to learn that the hymns had all passed through thousands of years, in a phonographic way, each generation uttering precisely what was poured into its ear by the preceding generation, until their language died, to be recovered in the West, where for the first time the real meaning of Agni, and the human significance of the hymns, were studied and known.



*Source: September 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Shiva's Cosmic Dance is the Dance of Sub-atomic Matter

In 2004, a tall statue of the dancing Shiva was unveiled at CERN, the European Center for Research in Particle Physics in Geneva. CERN is Switzerland's pre-eminent center of research into energy, the "world's largest particle physics laboratory" and the place where core technologies of the internet were first conceived. A special plaque below the Shiva statue explains the significance of the metaphor of Shiva's cosmic dance with quotations from Fritjof Capra (73), an American Physicist.



"Modern physics has shown that the rhythm of creation and destruction is not only manifest in the turn of the seasons and in the birth and death of all living creatures, but is also the very essence of inorganic matter and for the modern physicists, then, Shiva's dance is the dance of subatomic matter. Hundreds of years ago, Indian artists created different forms of visual images of dancing Shiva in a beautiful series of bronzes. In our time, physicists have used the most advanced technology to portray the patterns of the cosmic dance. The metaphor of the cosmic dance thus unifies ancient mythology, religious art and modern physics."

The parallel between Shiva's dance and the dance of subatomic particles was first discussed by Fritjof Capra in an article titled "The Dance of Shiva: The Hindu View of Matter in the light of Modern Physics," published in *Main Currents in Modern Thought* in 1972. Shiva's cosmic dance then became a central metaphor in Capra's international bestseller, *The Tao of Physics*, first published in 1975. It is still in print with over 40 editions and still going strong.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: July 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense.*

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# Ancient Indians Performed Sophisticated Surgeries through Ayurveda



Susrutha

Ayurveda is the knowledge of the life sciences of India developed thousands of years ago. Ayurveda is not just rejuvenation massages, Churan (herbal balls) and Kashayam (herbal decoction), as it is believed now.

In the Mahabharata, Ayurveda was called the science of eight components, which included internal medicine, paediatrics, surgery, ophthalmology, ENT, etc.

It is believed Dhanvantri is the God of Ayurveda. Charaka and Susrutha are just two names in this field. The Caraka Saṃhitā (or "Compendium of Caraka" is an early Ayurvedic encyclopedia on medicine. Sushruta Samhita is the main reference book for ayurvedic surgeons and details lot of surgical procedures. The medical compendiums of both Sushruta and Charaka were translated into Arabic language during the Abbasid Caliphate (750 AD). These Arabic works made their way into Europe via intermediaries.



Charaka is considered as the ‘Father of Medicine’ and Susrutha is considered as ‘Father of Surgery’.

It is found from these ancient scriptures, they were performing plastic surgery, cataract surgery, surgery of the bladder, and dissection procedures too. The smallpox vaccination originated in India. 121 surgical instruments are described in these books.

## Surgical instruments used by Susrutha



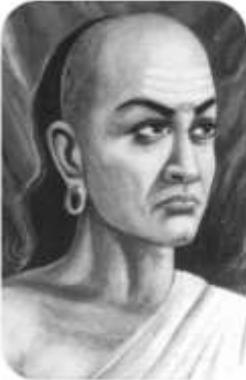
**Charaka**

Surgeons were trained. Takshasila – Maha Vishwa Vidhyalaya University specialised in advanced medical training for over 500 years and attracted students from various countries of the world.

*With input from D K Hari, Bharath Gyan  
Source: November 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Arthasastra Talks about Modern Day Governance Mantras, including Encryption of Communication



Arthasastra, the popular treatise on Indian administration, was written by Chanakya, who is also known as Kautilya. This book was written more than 2000 years ago.

Arthasastra is an Administration Manual for the rulers. Guidelines for administration of a state are not new to India. Even in Ramayana (7000 years back), Rama advises Bharatha about good governance, which is now called 'Rama Rajya'. Even in Mahabharata, Bhishma at the time of his death, advises Dharmaputra about good governance.

Although Arthasastra dates back to 2000 years, the concepts are relevant even for the modern day governance of the State and the Corporates.

While there were many references found in the ancient literature, the original palm leaves of Arthasastra were found only 100 years ago. Till such time, it was considered a lost book. In 1911, the curator of the Oriental Research Institute, Sri Shyama Shastri stumbled upon the full palm leaf manuscripts of Arthasastra, while going through the bundles of palm leaf manuscripts.

Megasthenes, a Greek ambassador after Alexander's visit, travelled to India and wrote about Arthasastra in his work Indika and popularised Arthasastra in the Western world.

Arthasastra consists of 15 chapters. These chapters deal with the duties of the government, law making, managing war, spying, etc. What is more interesting is that even in those days, Arthasastra talked about land



reforms, sustainability and prosperity, which are now considered new-age mantras. Kautilya says that Artha (Sound Economies) is the most important.

In these days of increasing instances of national espionage and usage of cryptography in communication etc. it would be interesting to note that Kautilya who was among the earliest to speak about usage of spies in national security, cryptography in communication, duties of rulers to guard the secrets of the nation and to protect those who give 'information', acting as spies etc.

It is no wonder that multinationals are now more interested in studying Arthasastra, to adopt some of the best practices.

*Input by D K Hari*

*Source: December 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **The Universal Word of Aum/Om/Amen/Ameen/Shalom**

### **In the Beginning**

Ancient teachings and modern science agree that all things in existence are made up of vibrating, pulsating energy. This energy is said to manifest as a humming vibration, inaudible to the human ear.



In the Sanskrit language, this sound is called Anahata Nada, the "Unstruck Sound". Literally, this means "the sound that is not made by two things striking together." The point of this particular distinction is that all ordinary audible sounds are made by at least two elements, eg. bow and string, drum and stick, two vocal cords, waves against the shore, wind against the leaves. All sounds within our range of hearing are created by things visible or

invisible, striking against each other or vibrating together, creating pulsating waves of air molecules which our ears and the brain interpret as sound. Sound that is not made by two things striking against each other is the sound of the primal energy, the sound of the universe itself. This sound is likened to the humming of an electrical transformer. It is the inaudible humming of the atoms and molecules within every creation.

The ancient scriptures say that the audible sound which most resembles this unstruck sound is the Word, Aum. Tradition has it that this ancient mantra is composed of four elements. The first three are vocal sounds: A(Aaa), U(Ooo), and M(Mmm). The fourth sound, which is inaudible, is the apparent silence before and after the audible sound, the silence which surrounds it.

### **The Religious Aspect**

The sound, Aum is commonly associated with ancient Hindu scriptures. It is so sacred in Hinduism that it is prefixed and suffixed to mantras and incantations. It is undoubtedly the most representative symbol of Hinduism. The Hindus believe that before creation began, it was Shunyākāsha,

meaning the emptiness or the void. In the state of Shunyākāsha, which literally means "no sky", everything in the void existed in a latent state of potentiality. As creation began, the divine, all-encompassing consciousness took the form of the first and original vibration, manifesting as the sound, Aum. The vibration of Aum symbolises the manifestation of God in form and it is said to be Adi Anadi, meaning without a beginning or an end, and embracing all forms that exist.

The significance of the word is not confined to the Hindu scriptures. The Bible talks about it in its New Testament, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Other religions too recognise the sound or Word, Aum in its equivalents – Amen to the Christians, Ameen to for the Muslims, Shalom to the Jews, Om to the Buddhists.

### **The Scientific Aspect**

A constant contention that science has with religious and spiritual thoughts, is that these religious 'truths' cannot be verified by experimentation or proof. Rational thinkers are therefore reluctant to accept these 'abstract' thoughts and beliefs. In this backdrop, the significance and effect of the utterance of Aum for the integrated well-being of the body, mind and inner being, gained recognition after scientific experimentation came out with some revealing observations in the following studies.

It is known that the audible range for human beings is between 20Hz(Hertz) and 20KHz(Kilohertz). What we know from the study of the musical sound is that the sounds we encounter in routine settings have a range starting from just below the mandra saptak, or the lower octave (256-512Hz) to the tar saptak, or the middle octave (1024-2048Hz). However, the chanting of Aum requires very low frequencies - below 100Hz, with some components of infrasound (below human audibility). Since the utterance of Aum is a combination tone of three syllables, A-U-M, one study attempted to find out the frequency components by using a mathematical frequency analysis to transform function of time to function of frequency (FFT or Fast-Fourier-Transform). The sound Aum, recorded from a person, was fed to a cathode ray oscilloscope to observe the waveform.

The result showed component frequencies well below 100Hz. This is regarded as the meditative state of that person. Electroencephalograph

(EEG) studies of Aum-chanting brain-wave frequency analysis revealed good, harmonious effects on the person during the low frequencies (lower than 100Hz, including infrasound lower than 20Hz). This observation led to the conclusion that the chanting of the universal Word had definite health benefits on the human body.

There is therefore more to this Universal Word than is currently recognised by the world. This Word is believed to be not only the sound of the Universe, but also a prayer by itself.

*By Susan Koshy, EditorSource:  
September 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Thanjavur Big Temple – An Architectural Marvel

### Great Dream of Raja Raja Chola I

The Brahadeewarar temple, also known as the Big Temple at Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) is dedicated to Lord Siva. It was built by the great Chola King Raja Raja 1 (985 -1012 A.D, and is one of the outstanding examples of our ancestors' architectural, engineering and astronomical heritage. UNESCO has declared it a World Heritage Monument recognising its importance.



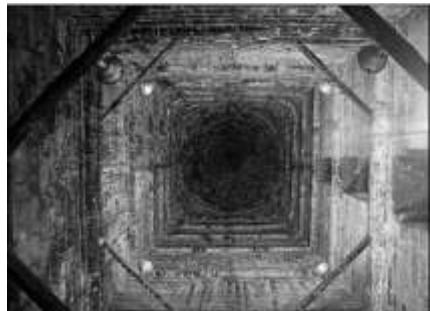
Emperor Raja Raja Chola I was a great dreamer and aspired to achieve something 'great'. That motivated him to build this unique temple, which is an engineering marvel. Even today, civil engineering students and professors from various leading national and international institutes visit this temple to learn from this great marvel.

### Chief Architect

“Kunjara Malla Perum Thachan’ was the Chief Architect of this temple” says Sthapathi K P Umapathy Acharya who belongs to the clan of Kunjara Malla Perum Thachan. As per records available, the chief architect was honoured by Emperor Raja Raja Chola I with the titles, ‘Veera Cholan’ and also ‘Raja Raja Perum thachan’, the highest honour of that time.

### Interesting Facts about the Structure

During the present time, when buildings with huge foundations collapse in less than 100 years, this temple



Inner hollow portion of vimanam

with a huge construction remains intact, braving all natural calamities, with a foundation of only 7 feet. Can you believe this?

The big temple complex was completed by Raja Raja Chola in 1010 AD. As per epigraphic evidence, the temple construction began in his 19th year of rule and was completed on the 275th day of his 25th year of rule. One wonders how such a big temple could be built in just 6 years, taking into account the amount of stone and soil to be moved and the lack of powered machinery available in those days.

The temple is made up of about 130,000 tons of granite. There are five stages of 'Gopurams'. The central 'vimana' is 216 feet from the ground level and has a 13-tier structure. The towering vimana weighs about 43,000 tonnes and has a square base measuring 96 feet. The whole vimana structure progresses up in a conical shape and has a shikara weighing 81.28 tonnes. This massive shikara was moved to this position by building a ramp of 7 kms from a village which still exists with the name "Sarapallam".

### **Foundation of 7 Feet and Vimana Architecture**

The whole vimana has a foundation of only 7 feet and it is built in such a way that the weight is evenly distributed on the base foundation. The whole Vimana is built using granite rocks and is covered by a thin layer of mortar to preserve the granite sculptures inside. The vimana has a hollow structure similar to the Pyramids of Giza and the entire structure is made of stones interlocked with the ball and socket joint technique with no binding material used to hold the structural parts. This is nothing less than an engineering marvel considering the fact that this temple has withstood 6 recorded earthquakes and no major damage has been reported.

There is a big statue of Nandi (sacred bull), carved out of a single rock, at the entrance measuring about 16 feet long and 13 feet high

### **Paintings and Carvings**

Chola paintings are partly visible on the walls and the ceiling, as they have been overlaid by the paintings of the rulers after the Chola era. These paintings were done with natural mineral colours called 'Varna Lepana' and these paintings continue to remain intact, even after 1000 years. 108 miniature dancers in different poses are carved on the basement of the upper passageway walls.

**Rainwater Harvesting**

The temple has been constructed in such a way that the water during rains, as well as the water used during the 'abhisekam' are fed to the adjacent 'sivaganga tank'.

In spite of the recognition by UNESCO, the Indian Government is yet to showcase it as a tourist attraction among the Indian and foreign tourists, and promote our ancient Indian wisdom.

*Source: July 2013 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Ravana had Six Airports in Sri Lanka

Nowadays, we see some of the State Governments and individuals owning helicopters. Around 7100 years ago, during the Ramayana days, the Sri Lankan King Ravana had 'Vimanas' (flying machines), in his airport hangars for his use. According to Valmiki Ramayana, Ravana had 6 such airports. They were Weragantota in Mahiyangana, Thotupola Kanda at Hoton Plains, Usangoda on the southern coast, Wariyapola in Kurunegala, Wariyapola in Mattale and Gurulupotha in Mahiyangana. (picture)



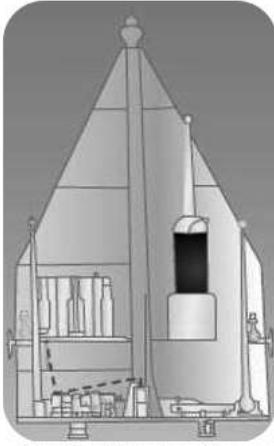
When Rama was flying over Sri Lanka in the Pushpaka Vimana after killing Ravana, he described the aerial view to Vibishana, saying "Lanka shines on the earth, studded with many Vimanas" (Valmiki Ramayana, Yuddha Khanda, Sarga 20):

विमानै बहुमिल्लङ्का संकीर्णा भुवि राजते ।  
विष्णोःपद्मिषाकाशे छादितं पाण्डुभिर्घनैः ॥१०॥

The story of Ravana flying in the Vimana with his wife Mandodari is etched as the insignia in the famous hotel, Galle Face Hotel of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

### Books on Vimana Sastra

Texts like Ramayana and other Puranic texts speak about the stories of Vimana. The technical details on Vimana are available in a few other texts in India. The more prominent among these is the Vaimanika Shastra written by Maharishi Bharadwaja. In this treatise, Maharishi Bharadwaja states that he was only compiling information available at his time for various Vimana and that most of them were prior to his time. He writes about 120 different Vimanas that existed in different times in different lands. He also gives glimpses of fuels used, aeronautics, avionics, metallurgy and other manoeuvres that were deployed in flying these Vimana. Besides, Yantra Sarvasva (by Maharishi Bharadwaja) and Samarangana Sutra Dara (by Raja Bhoja) also give more technical details about the 'flying machines'. These great books had with technical drawings of the ancient vimana and have also been translated into English in the last hundred years.



**Sketch of Sundara Vimana**

Four types of Vimanas are described in the ancient scriptures. They are (1) Rukma (Conical in shape, golden in colour), (2) Sundara (Rocket like with silver sheen), (3) Tripura (Three storied, wide body) and (4) Sakuna (Greyish in colour, long distance cruising model). Based on the description, technical sketches have also been drawn. The metals and fuel used and the various purposes are also found in these scriptures.

*By K Srinivasan Editor in Chief  
with Input from Mr. D K Hari, Bharath Gyan  
Source: October 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Sri Ramanuja – Combining Spiritualism with Social Justice

The nation is celebrating the thousandth birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja (1017-1137), a spiritual leader who lived in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. In those days of caste suppressions, Sri Ramanujam as a spiritual leader introduced several practices braving all oppositions, in order to promote social justice.



Sri Ramanuja as in Srirangam Temple

### Social Justice

Sri Ramanuja is believed to have lived for 120 years dedicating his entire life to a spiritual life with social justice. Although he was born in a Brahmin family, he selected his spiritual Guru from a different community.

One thousand years ago, when temples forbade the entry of 'lower' caste people, Sri Ramanuja allowed them into the temple and to participate in all the temple rituals. He accepted his '*sishyas*' (students) from all communities, including the 'downtrodden' caste. He treated them all equally. He valued a person not by his birth or caste but by his devotion to God, irrespective of his social status. He addressed the downtrodden caste people as '*Thiru Kulathar*' (meaning Descendants of Maha Lakshmi). It may be noted that Mahatma Gandhi in the 20<sup>th</sup> century called them '*Harijans*' (Descendants of Lord Vishnu). Sri Ramanuja administered '*Pancha-samaskara*', to all people irrespective of their caste. '*Pancha-Samaskara*' was a ritual which was administered only to the upper caste people, to initiate them into '*Vaishnavism*'.

### Management Qualities

He created 'Standard Operating Procedures' for all *Vaishnavite* temples, thus providing the opportunity to all the people irrespective of their community, to worship and participate in the rituals. The concept of 'social engineering' was introduced by him in those days. Even today, all the *Vaishnavite* temples in the South follow this procedure.

### Muslim Princess Honoured in Hindu Temple

When the Moghul King conquered the Mysore area and took away the idol of Lord Vishnu from the Melkote temple, Sri Ramanuja went all the way from down south, to Delhi and brought back the idol and re-installed it in the temple. The Muslim princess at Delhi who was fond of the idol, could not bear the separation and came down to Melkote. In her honour, Sri Ramanuja established a shrine in the temple and named the shrine 'Bibi Nachiar'. Even today, only Roti is offered in this shrine in accordance with her tradition.

### Social Responsibility

Sri Ramanuja provided free '*prasadams*' to all devotees. He constructed many '*Ramanuja Kootams*', similar to the modern day '*Yatri Nivas*' and provided free food and shelter to all pilgrims. He insisted on the cleanliness of the temple kitchen in all temples. He was also a great visionary. He renovated many temple tanks and constructed tanks in villages. He insisted on 'rain water harvesting' to ensure sufficient water supply to the people all times. He designed and built a lake near Melkote between two rocky hills. He named this lake Thirumala Sagar. This lake, popularly known as Thondalur Lake has medicinal properties and that its water has never dried up since its creation, even in severe drought conditions.



**Thondalur lake**

### Spiritual Works

He travelled the entire nation and created a mass movement on 'spiritual renaissance', combining spirituality with social justice. He authored several books in Sanskrit. His books, *Sri Bhashyam* (inner meaning of Brahma Sutra) and *Gita Bhashyam* (inner meaning of Bhagwat Gita) are considered authoritative by scholars today. Sri Ramanuja's concept of social justice has greater significance in the world and the society today.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*

*Source: April 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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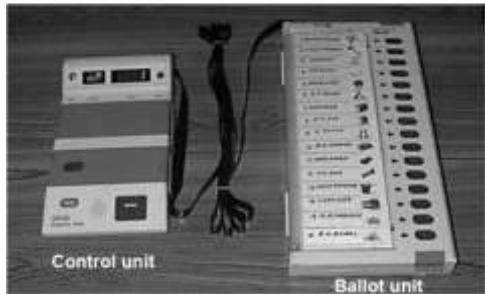


## **Section IV: Governance and the Government**



## Snippets about Indian Elections

**Electronic Voting Machines (EVM):** Nearly 11 lakh Electronic Voting Machines are used in the General Elections, covering 8.5 lakh polling stations. EVMs were devised and designed by the Election Commission in collaboration with two Public Sector Undertakings viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad. Every machine can support 64 candidates and record 3840 votes. Since every polling station in India has a maximum of 1500 voters, one EVM is sufficient for every station. EVMs manufactured in 1989-90, were used on an experimental basis for the first time in 16 Assembly Constituencies in the States of Madhya Pradesh (5), Rajasthan (5) and NCT of Delhi (6), in the General Elections to the respective Legislative Assemblies held in November, 1998.



**Indelible Ink or Voter's Ink:** This special ink is manufactured by Mysore Paints and Varnish Limited, a State owned public sector company in Karnataka. This company supplies the indelible ink to several other countries too. This ink dries in 40 seconds and cannot be removed for 20 days. This prevents fake voting. A 10-ml bottle can be used for 300 voters. This company

supplied 2 million bottles in the 2009 General Elections.

**First Chief Election Commissioner of India** Shri Sukumar Sen, a Civil Servant from Bengal was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India. He prepared the first electoral rolls of the country and developed the systems. The first General Election was held between



25 October 1951 and 21 February 1952. During this first election, a different ballot box was used for each candidate, rather than using the ballot paper! Different coloured boxes represented different parties. Later, ballot papers were introduced with the candidate's name and symbol. In 2004, EVMs were used in all the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies. 1033 candidates contested in the Modakurichi assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu in 1996. The ballot paper was in the form of a booklet!

**Nation's 5 biggest and 5 smallest constituencies according to area:**

**Biggest constituencies:**

Barmer (Rajasthan) : 71601.24 sq-km  
 Ladakh (J&K) : 173266.37 sq-km  
 Arunachal (East) (AP): 39749.64 sq-km  
 Kuchh (Gujarat) : 41644.55 sq-km  
 Arunachal(West) AP: 40572.29 sq-km

**Smallest constituencies:**

Mumbai South: 13.73 sq-km  
 Mumbai South-central: 18.31 sq-km  
 Delhi sadar: 28.09 sq-km  
 Chandni chowk (Delhi): 10.59 sq-km  
 Kolkata north west 13.23 sq-km

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
 Source: February 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Case Study – Political Intolerance

Ananda Vikatan, a leading Tamil weekly published a cartoon on the cover page of its issue dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 1987. (Picture left).



In the cartoon, a member from the audience asks another, “Which is the MLA and which is the Minister”. The other person replies, “The person who looks like a pickpocket is the MLA and the person who looks like a dacoit is the Minister”

When the issue was released, the Tamil Nadu Assembly was in session. One member raised the issue of this cartoon as ‘breach of privilege’. The Speaker of the Assembly demanded an apology from the editor.

In the next issue, the Mr S Balasubramanian, Editor of the

weekly, wrote an editorial saying, “This cartoon is about the politicians who come to power using democracy and then betraying the trust of the people. This cartoon can apply to any country”.

Not satisfied with the response by the Editor, the Assembly passed a resolution imposing a three month imprisonment to Mr Balasubramanian, Editor. The Editor was arrested. Immediately, the entire media in India and world over objected to this arrest, as it was considered interference in the freedom of press. Even BBC carried a strong message.

Since the issue was taken up by the global media, the speaker ordered the release of the Editor after two days. The Editor came out of the prison a victor. (picture)





## **New Pope takes over**

### **Vatican panorama from St.Peters Basilica**



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

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

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

Throughout his life, both as an individual and as a religious leader, he is known for his humility, his concern for the poor, and his commitment to dialogue as a way to build bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths. Since his election to the papacy, he has displayed a simpler and less formal approach to the office, including a decision to reside

in the Vatican guesthouse rather than the papal residence used by his predecessors since 1903.



A majority of the popes were Italians. But with Francis' appointment, the tide could be shifting towards outside Europe.

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

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

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

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

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: March 2013 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## The Parliament House



The Parliament House is one of the most magnificent buildings in New Delhi and has one of the brightest clusters of architectural gems possessed by any country in the world. The building was designed by two famous architects – Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker – who were responsible for the planning and construction of New Delhi. The Parliament House is a massive circular edifice, 560 feet (170.69 metre) in diameter.

Its circumference is one-third of a mile and it covers an area of nearly six acres (24281.16 square metre). The open verandah on the first floor is fringed with a colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone columns, each 27 feet (8.23 metre) high.

The Chamber of the Lok Sabha is semi-circular in shape with a floor area of about 4800 square feet (446 square metre). The Chair of the Speaker is placed conspicuously at the centre of the diameter connecting the two ends of the semi-circle. In the pit of the Chamber just below the Speaker's Chair

is the table of the Secretary-General of the House. The Chamber has a seating accommodation for 550 members. In the wood work around the Lok Sabha Chamber, there are 35 gilded designs representing the various Provinces of Undivided India, the Dominions and certain other British Settlements.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense  
Source: April 2013 edition of Ezine PreSense*

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## Role of RSS in the General Elections 2014

### RSS Involvement in Elections



**Dr Mohan Bhagwat, Chief of RSS**

Recently, Ram Madhav, a senior leader of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) confirmed to the media, of their involvement in the recent Parliamentary Elections to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister. Generally, RSS does not

compete in the elections and does not share power. Ram

Madhav further confirmed that this was the second time that RSS had wholeheartedly involved their cadre in the election strategies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed the active involvement of RSS in his victory. When Indira Gandhi imposed emergency in 1975, RSS was banned and more than 10,000 RSS workers were arrested. During the 1977 General Elections, RSS worked at the ground level to defeat Indira Gandhi. During that time, the Janata Party won 345 seats out of 543 seats and formed the Government. Though RSS is an apolitical organisation, they involved their cadre to restore democracy in 1977, Ram Madhav said.

After 26 years, RSS involved their cadre again to bring a change of Government, when the nation was facing large scale corruption, policy paralysis and lack of leadership. The Congress made public statements that the electoral fight was between Congress and RSS. Interestingly, NDA won 336 seats in the Lok Sabha. RSS is known to work from behind and without publicising their achievements, however significant they might be.

### RSS – Background

RSS was founded by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925 with the intention of promoting the concept of a united India and to promote indigenous ideology. They drew inspiration from social and spiritual leaders like Swami Vivekananda, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and Aurobindo. Their cadre was also active during the freedom movement.

RSS conducts a daily one-hour '*Shakha*' (training) of yoga, physical exercise and games for their members to develop their spirit of nationalism and patriotism. It is reported that around 5,500 full-time workers (*pracharaks*) manage the RSS. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani and Narendra Modi started their public service as *pracharaks*. It is also estimated that around 50,000 *shakhas* are held every day throughout India, with the participation of nearly 800,000 to 1,000,000 volunteer members, belonging to various castes and professions, without any discrimination of status.

The RSS network has more than 30 sister organisations, viz. *Sangh Parivar*, which includes the political wing BJP, India's largest trade union *Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh* (11 million membership), India's largest student union, *Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad* (ABVP with 2,200,000 members), *Vidya Bharathi* (running 13,500 schools with 3 million students), *Bharatiya Kisan Sangh* (2 million members), *Muslim Rashtriya Manch* (1 million members), *Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram* and many others. RSS spreads the message of patriotism and nationalism in all the districts of the country through these organisations.

The current chief of RSS (*Sarsanghchalak*) Dr Mohanji Bhagwat is the 7th chief after the launch of RSS and he is the mentor for all the *Sangh Parivar* organisations.

### **Rescue Operations during Crises**

The RSS cadre is known for its rescue operations during disaster situations like the Bhuj earthquake in 2001, Tsunami in 2004 and the Uttarakhand disaster in 2013.

In 1962, the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had requested RSS to assist the Government in various assignments during the Sino-Indian War. As a gesture of goodwill, in 1963, Pandit Nehru invited RSS to participate in the Republic Day parade at New Delhi. Again in 1965, during the Indo-Pak war, RSS was requested by the then Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri to take care of the law and order and the traffic in Delhi, so that the policemen could be spared for war duties. Even during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, RSS cadre helped the authorities to maintain law and order in various states.

When Gandhiji visited a 1500-strong RSS camp at Wardha in 1934, he was pleasantly surprised to find that the *Swayamsevaks* were not even aware of

the castes of one another, not to speak of any ideas of untouchability. The visit left such a deep impression on Gandhiji's that he referred to it even thirteen years later.

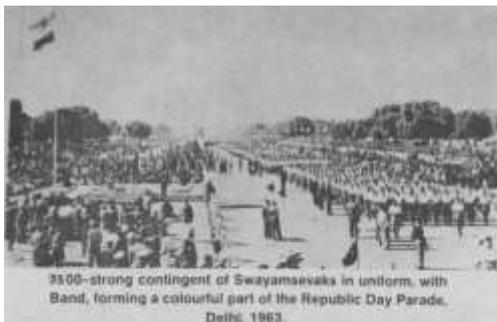
### **Controversy**

The RSS, with its paramilitary style of functioning and its emphasis on discipline and nationalism, is sometimes seen by some as "an Indian version of fascism". When Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in 1948 by Nathuram Godse, an ex-member of RSS, the Nehru Government banned RSS for the first time in February 1948. The Justice Kapur Commission was set up to enquire into the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. Justice Kapur observed that RSS was not responsible for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. The Government lifted the ban in July 1949 with the condition that RSS should adopt a constitution.

RSS was again banned in 1975 during Emergency and the ban was lifted in 1977.

### **Confused Perception about RSS due to Lack of PR**

RSS, as a matter of policy, does not display any reaction to bouquets or brickbats. Thus, even misleading and wrong information about RSS go undefended. This leads to confused perceptions about it. Even for writing this article, I had to struggle to get information as they do not have any professional Public Relations set-up to share their positive



achievements and services to the nation.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor In Chief*

*Source: May 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Circumspection and Silence Go Together in Governance

Effective communication can take place without sound or gestures; and, silence, used wisely, could be more eloquent. To quote Keats: "Unheard melodies are sweeter" (*'shruta gana abhirama, ashruta gana abhirama taram'*). While decision-making through loud sound-bytes has become the political norm, employing the art of silence as a communication weapon is



**P V Narasimha Rao**

rare and criticised. The former Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao used this weapon very effectively and received his share of criticism from the more vocal communicators.

Ever circumspect that he was, he cautioned against creating hype about the mere fact of his cabinet giving nod to any new proposal. His advice was that when the proposal got implemented, it would create its own communication.

Sometimes by not expressing any opinion on an item coming up before the cabinet and deferring the subject, Rao would signal a powerful message.

The finance ministry was keen to drastically cut most of the government subsidies, including the subsidy to food grains supplied through the ration shops. This was at a time when there were misgivings within the ruling party over liberalisation. There were demands to strengthen the social safety net for protecting the people affected by changes in the economic policy.

Every time the proposal to increase the price of food grains issued through ration shops came up before the cabinet, without a word Rao would shift to the next agenda item. Through this stratagem, he avoided a political storm within and outside his government. Economic liberalisation was not a popular issue within his own party as well as a section of the private business. Without picking up a fight with them, he quietly allowed the loosening of bolts and nuts holding the weight of state control over economic activities. When these started bearing fruit, liberalisation won many votaries.

He preferred action to words. Here is an example: the minister in charge of power sector excitedly rushed to him with an announcement in 1994 that a Hong Kong-based tycoon offered to sign a MOU with India for generating 10,000 MW. Rao's suggestion to the minister was to sign the MOU but let the foreign tycoon make the announcement along with its details. The minister preferred the sound byte.

And nothing more was ever heard about this MOU. (Gestation time of power projects is long and people feel their impact over time. In the meanwhile, the short term pains to be endured by power consumers are many. Therefore, in Rao's view merely announcing an MOU was not enough. If a private party makes the relevant announcement, it would be held accountable rather than the government. The latter's announcement of MOU could be used for manipulating the company share market).

In 1996, almost at the end of its term, the government took an in-principle decision to buy Sukhoi fighter jets from Russia that would put the Indian air force on par with neighbours having American F-16 fighters. This was a significant decision taken on the election eve and many of his colleagues wanted the government to make an announcement to derive political mileage. Rao was not in favour, and security issue was not the only reason. The deal involved payment of an advance and other procedures, including approval of the deal by the successor government after the poll. Actual induction of these fighters was a long way off. He was prepared to forego the temporary political advantage in order to protect the deal. As and when these Sukhois took to the skies flying the Indian tri-colour, the message was very clear.

The scamster, Harshad Mehta had announced through a press conference that he had delivered a sum of one crore rupees in a suit case to Rao at his high security official residence. The media went berserk. Party colleagues, sycophants and civil servants rushed to advise him to issue an immediate denial. Rao's reaction: "Don't hustle me. A crook has made the allegation. Onus of proof is on him'. More than 24 hours elapsed before releasing an official denial.

In contrast to this, in the Bofors' Howitzer gun controversy, the government came out with an immediate denial barely a few hours after the Swedish radio alleged that there was a payoff to middle- men contravening the contact terms. Buying time through silence for getting facts and assuring

people that the government was concerned and would get to the bottom of the developing scandal could have saved it the ensuing embarrassment. Circumspection and silence mix like salt and pepper to make any communication more palatable and prevent the possibility of one having to eat one's own words.

*By S Narendra, Former Information Advisor to Prime Minister  
Source: June 2009 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Milestones of 'Right To Education Act'



### **Indian Constitution –Article 45 states:**

“The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years “

### **Amendments**

Following initiatives by the Supreme Court of India during the 1990s the Ninety-third amendment bill suggested three separate amendments to the Indian constitution:

**The constitution of India was amended to include a new article, 21A, which read:**

“The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.”

**Article 45 was proposed to be substituted by the article which read:**

“Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years: The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.”

**Another article, 51A, was to additionally have the clause:**

“...a parent or guardian [shall] provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.”

The bill was passed unanimously in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in 2001 and 2002. After the approval by the President of India, it became the 86<sup>th</sup> amendment. Since then those between the age of 6–14 have a fundamental right to education.

### **Passage of Bill and implementation**

A draft Education Bill was released in 2005. It received opposition, as it contained a mandatory provision of 25% reservation for disadvantaged children in private schools. Both the Houses passed this Bill in July and August 2009 and President approved this bill in Sep 2009. This historic law came into effect on 1st April 2010 with a speech by the Prime Minister of India.

*Source: July 2010 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## The Ado about Article 370

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Jitendra Singh stirred up a controversy recently by talking about initiating a debate on Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which grants special status to the northernmost state of Jammu and Kashmir. This seemingly off-the-cuff comment has fuelled a debate on the sensitive subject, both in the media and on political platforms. It may be recalled that when the Bharatiya Janata Party held its rally in Jammu during December 2013, its then prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi, had called for a debate on Article 370.



Graphics courtesy: Economic Times

### Reasons for Article 370

It is pertinent to know the genesis of, and understand the reason for Article 370. When India and Pakistan gained their national independence on August 15 and 14, 1947 respectively, Jammu & Kashmir chose to remain independent. Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of Jammu & Kashmir, signed a standstill agreement with Pakistan.

India refused to sign any such agreement. In October, 1947, Pakistani Muslim tribes attacked the Maharaja and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. To save his state from invasion, the Maharaja chose to accede Jammu & Kashmir to India, so that India could help in defending him. It was in the pursuance of those commitments that Article 370 was incorporated under Part XXI of the Constitution of India, which deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions". Article 370 was worked out in late 1947 between Sheikh Abdullah, who had by then been appointed the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir by Maharaja Hari Singh, and the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. Interestingly, Sheikh Abdullah had then argued that Article 370 should not be placed under 'temporary' provisions

of the Constitution. He wanted 'iron-clad autonomy' for the state, which Centre did not comply with.

### **Dr Ambedkar opposed this Article 370 and refused to draft the article**

It is interesting to note that Dr Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution, refused to draft this Article 370 and it was drafted by Mr Gopalaswami Iyengar a State Minister. Dr Ambedkar is reported to have told Sheikh Abdullah, *"You wish India should protect your borders, she should build roads in your area, she should supply you food grains, and Kashmir should get equal status as India. But the Government of India should have only limited powers and the Indian people should have no rights in Kashmir. To give consent to this proposal, would be a treacherous thing against the interests of India and I, as the Law Minister of India, will never do it "* (Ref: wikipedia.org)

### **Implications of Article 370 on India and J&K**

Article 370 was intended to provide space, in matters of governance, to the people of a state who felt deeply vulnerable about their identity and insecure about their future. The state of Jammu & Kashmir was thus accorded special autonomous status. All the provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to Jammu & Kashmir. For example, till 1965, Jammu & Kashmir had a *Sadr-e-Riyasat* for Governor and a Prime Minister in place of Chief Minister. Besides, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, the Parliament needs the State Government's concurrence for applying all other laws. Thus the state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights, as compared to other Indians. Indian citizens from other states cannot purchase land or property in Jammu & Kashmir.

Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state. It can declare emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression. The Union Government can therefore not declare emergency on grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the State Government.

Article 370 was included in the Constitution on a temporary provision and should have been gradually abrogated. This has not happened in the past sixty years. One asks why a state of the Indian Union should have a special

status. It conveys a wrong signal not only to the resident Kashmiris but also to the separatists, to Pakistan and indeed to the international community that Jammu & Kashmir is yet to become an integral part of India. One is convinced that Article 370 has done little to integrate the state of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India.

### **Is it possible to revoke Article 370?**

Can Article 370 be revoked unilaterally? Clause 3 of Article 370 states that the President of India may, by public notification, declare that this Article shall cease to be operative, but only on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State. In other words, Article 370 can be revoked only if the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir is convened and is willing to recommend its revocation. The Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution to change this provision. But this could be subject to a judicial review which may find that this clause is a basic feature of the relationship between the State and the Centre, and hence not for review by it.

As one of the most debated and discussed articles of the Constitution, Modi's suggestion of a debate, followed by Jitender Singh's reiteration, has brought the issue of this provision in the limelight once again.

To read full text of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, please visit  
**[http://www.jammu-kashmir.com/documents/jk\\_art370.html](http://www.jammu-kashmir.com/documents/jk_art370.html)**

*Compiled by Susan Koshy, Editor*  
*Source: May 2014 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **The Economic Makeover of India – 1991 Economic Liberalisation Policy**

July 24, 1991 is a landmark date in the history of the Indian economy. India instituted a series of economic reforms known as the Economic Liberalisation Policy of 1991. This happened at a time when India was at the brink of economic collapse and a severe balance of payments (payments for export and import of goods, services and capital) crisis. The country was unable to pay off essential imports, and had to borrow heavily from external sources to finance the resulting deficits. Inflation was rampant.

There were several other factors that contributed to this unwelcome state, tracing down from the early post-independence era. India drove a centralised economic planning model (inspired by the Soviet Union), in place of distributing controls.

A natural outcome of this policy was extensive bureaucracy, red tape, unnecessary regulations and trade barriers. Although these socialist reform measures were meant to alleviate poverty, the opposite happened. India faced food shortages and mass starvation; farmers struggled to meet the agricultural production needs and industrialists suffered from the grip of the *License Raj* (Government control). The state intervened in industrialisation, businesses, labour sectors and the financial markets, leading to a huge public sector. Since independence, India had only been able to maintain a growth rate of 3-3.5%; the capital growth rate was even worse, at around 1.3%. It compared poorly even among some of the other developing countries with similar independence timelines.

The wars of 1962, 1965 and 1971 drove up the defence spending, causing further strain to the economy. India also relied on import for some essentials as oil. India dealt with the deficit in the worst possible way - borrowing from external sources to finance the deficit. During 1980-1985, half of India's external financing needs were met with outside assistance. External debt grew to as much as 38.7% of the GDP in 1991-1992, culminating in the Balance of Payments crisis. The then Prime Minister had to pawn India's gold as collateral for IMF (International Monetary Fund) bailouts.

With just three weeks left to completely depleting the last loan from IMF, Narasimha Rao took over as India's Prime Minister and announced India's

Economic Liberalisation Policy. He appointed Dr Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister. The goal of his visionary policy was to remove unnecessary bureaucratic controls, take measures to integrate India with the world economy, remove restrictions on foreign investments and crack down on public sector enterprises that yielded very low returns. The Indian Rupee was devalued. Industrial licensing was abolished. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act (that protected businesses from monopolies) was reformed, enabling competitive and productive industries. All industries (barring two) were opened to the private sector. There was gradual reduction of import duties, encouraging foreign investments to flow in. More clearance was given to capital goods. Taxes (income and corporate taxes) were lowered.

How much has India changed as fallout of the 'makeover' of 1991? India's GDP which was Rs.10.8 lakh crore (10.8 trillion) in 1991 quadrupled by 2011 with GDP at Rs.48.8 lakh crore (48.8 trillion); its forex reserves rose from USD5.8 billion in 1991 to USD274 billion in 2011. India boasts of exports' surge from USD 18 billion in 1991 to USD 245 billion in 2011.

It is pertinent to mention here that as per the principle of economics, when a particular sector performs disproportionately higher than the average growth rate, economic wealth starts concentrating in that sector. In the case of India, it is the service sector. Within this sector, the highest growth is marked by sectors such as financial



services and real estate services, etc. which are least employment elastic.

**Architects of 1991 Economic Liberalisation Policy: P V Narasimha Rao (Prime Minister) and Dr Manmohan Singh (Finance Minister) in 1994**

Consequently, growth in the past decade in India was limited to upscale areas of the country as almost the entire service industry operates from these areas. This accelerated migration to urban areas, creating an array of social problems associated with urbanisation. It also changed the pattern

and lifestyles of the Indian society. Now we have the ultra-modern and the ultra-primitive societies co-existing and conflicting with each other.

What we have learnt from the past 25 years is that unless we have a crisis, we might not see big bang reforms. We may have incremental reforms that are politically palatable. The present Prime Minister appears to be focusing on fixing some of the architecture that is required for long-term positive change – making government accountable, clamping down on corruption and stimulating entrepreneurship and, hopefully, developing the much-needed infrastructure.

Time will tell how and where India will be propelled towards, in the next 25 years under the present and future legacy. The people of India are hopeful that it would be towards a more balanced and healthier economy that ultimately benefits the common man on the streets of India and the farmers in the fields of its rural landscape. For this, there needs to be inclusive participation of both the government and the entrepreneur, especially in the implementation of the roadmap towards India's development and progress.

*By Susan Koshy, Editor*

*Source : July 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Section V: Life of Prince, the Cartoon character**

## The Interesting Story of Cartoon Character, Prince

The cute little cartoon character, Prince has been adding value and humour to your ezine, PreSense for the past five years. He has been conveying powerful messages with a sense of humour. The creation and the journey of Prince are interesting and amazing.



In July 2008, on Dr Abdul Kalam's suggestion, the editorial team decided to introduce cartoons in the ezine. When we made an announcement to the effect in the PRPoint group, Mr. Triambak Sharma, a well-known cartoonist from Raipur and the editor of Cartoon Watch (picture on left) volunteered to provide cartoons for the ezine every month. Instead of publishing regular assorted cartoons, the editorial team decided on a cartoon character, on the lines of R K Laxman's 'Common Man', to convey the message.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008, the editorial team made an announcement about its idea in the groups, and invited suggestions from the members, and a suitable name for the character. The team received an overwhelming response of 100 suggested names. The suggestion given by Ms Uma, a communication professional to name the character as 'Prince' received unanimous approval of the editorial team. 'Prince' was introduced to the groups on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008.



**Dr Abdul Kalam launching the first cartoon with his autograph (24 Jul 08)**



"I wanted Prince to be the youth icon of this 21<sup>st</sup> century, as a representative of the professionals working in corporate and other offices. Hence, I created him as an energetic young person, wearing a trendy outfit and a necktie. I am proud that Prince was born in Raipur", says Triambak Sharma proudly.

The first cartoon, created by Triambak Sharma, was launched by Dr Abdul Kalam himself with his autograph, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at Rajbhavan, Chennai (picture above). The cartoon character was created and launched within 20 days of the editorial team's decision to include the cartoon in the ezine.

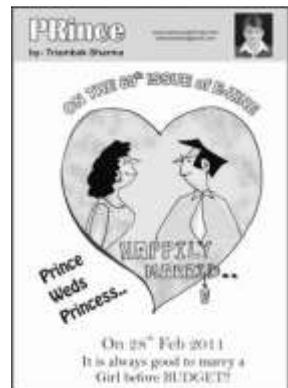
Every edition of the ezine from July 2008 onwards contains a Prince cartoon. In every issue, Prince conveys a powerful message with a sense of humour. Thus, Prince won itself many fans. Prince became popular worldwide.

In April 2010, The Wall Street Journal of America carried one of the Prince cartoons with the permission of Triambak Sharma. (picture) The popularity of Prince grew day by day, both nationally and internationally.



In May 2010, a CD containing the Prince cartoons was released on the occasion of the launch of the Golden Jubilee edition (50<sup>th</sup>) of ezine. It was also displayed on the internet.

Prince, who was a Casanova till then, married his sweetheart 'Princess' in the Diamond Jubilee 60<sup>th</sup> edition, published in February 2011 (picture on the right). "Only married people can understand the problems of the common person and communicate in a mature manner. Subsequent to his marriage, Prince started talking about many serious issues affecting the common citizen", says Triambak Sharma when asked why Prince married hastily. The readers could notice that after the 61<sup>st</sup> edition, Prince conveyed more serious messages than what he used to, before his marriage.



Interestingly, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam himself is one of the great fans of Prince. While addressing the Cartoon Festival at New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Dr Abdul Kalam suggested that cartoonists should be remembered for creating cartoon characters like 'Common Man' and 'Prince'.



100<sup>th</sup> Prince cartoon was launched at Raipur by Dr Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016. (picture)

The video produced during that occasion can be watched from this link.

<https://youtu.be/IEWszuZTInE>

While Mumbai can be proud of 'Common Man' created by R K Laxman, Raipur can now be proud of Triambak's 'Prince'.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*



First Cartoon launched by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam - July 2008



# PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



www.cartoonwatchindia.com

cartoonwatch@gmail.com

CARTOONIST  
R.K. LAXMAN  
NO MORE

This is our  
Destiny Sir..  
Creator Goes..  
Character  
Lives...



January 2015 – Homage to late R K Laxman, cartoonist

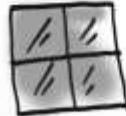
# PRince

by- Triambak Sharma

[www.cartoonwatchindia.com](http://www.cartoonwatchindia.com)  
[cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)



GURR!! I THINK  
I HAVE TO APPOINT  
ONE PERSON TO DELETE  
SPAM... AND FORWARDED  
MESSAGES..



January 2011

# PRince

by- Triambak Sharma

[www.cartoonwatchindia.com](http://www.cartoonwatchindia.com)  
[cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)



You should be little fast Man..!!  
You proved about **GOD PARTICLE**  
now ..which we declared  
thousands year back...



July 2012

# PRince

[www.cartoonwatchindia.com](http://www.cartoonwatchindia.com)  
[cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)



BY - TRIAMBAK SHARMA

VERY SOON.. CENSOR BOARD  
CAN ASK "NOC" FROM STATES  
BEFORE GIVING CERTIFICATE...



January 2013

# PRince

by- Triambak Sharma

[www.cartoonwatchindia.com](http://www.cartoonwatchindia.com)  
[cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)



SIT.. A Client wants  
POWER POINT PRESENTATION  
to propose a girl..

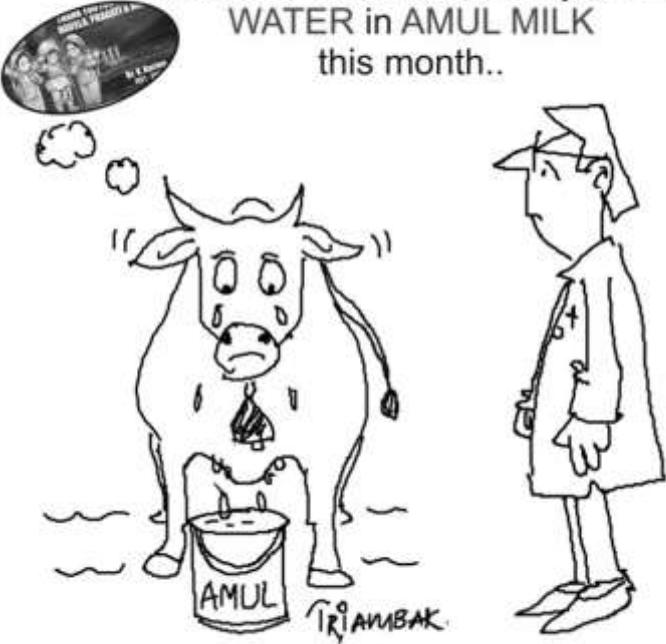


November 2010

**PRince** www.cartoonwatchindia.com  
cartoonwatch@gmail.com 

by- Triambak Sharma

There is a valid reason.. if you find  
**WATER** in AMUL MILK  
this month..



RIP... Dr. V. Kurien .. **C**ow country Lover..!!  
artoon

September 2012 – Homage to Dr V Kurien, Father of the White Revolution.



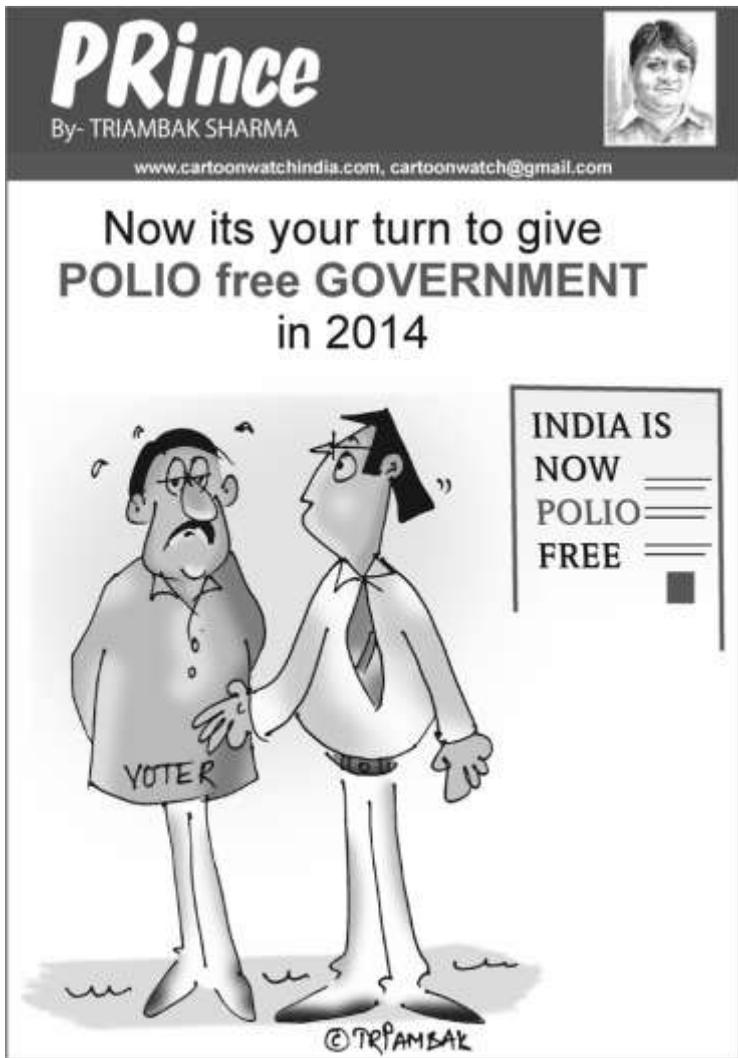
March 2013



May 2013 – This cartoon was published when IPL scam broke



August 2013



February 2014 – Before Indian General Elections 2014

# PRince

By- TRIAMBAK SHARMA



[www.cartoonwatchindia.com](http://www.cartoonwatchindia.com), [cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)

**I AM REALLY HAPPY WITH THIS  
DECISION.. ONLY "MY WIFE"  
IS NOT HAPPY...**



NO  
FAVOURS  
TO  
RELATIVES  
-MODI

May 2014

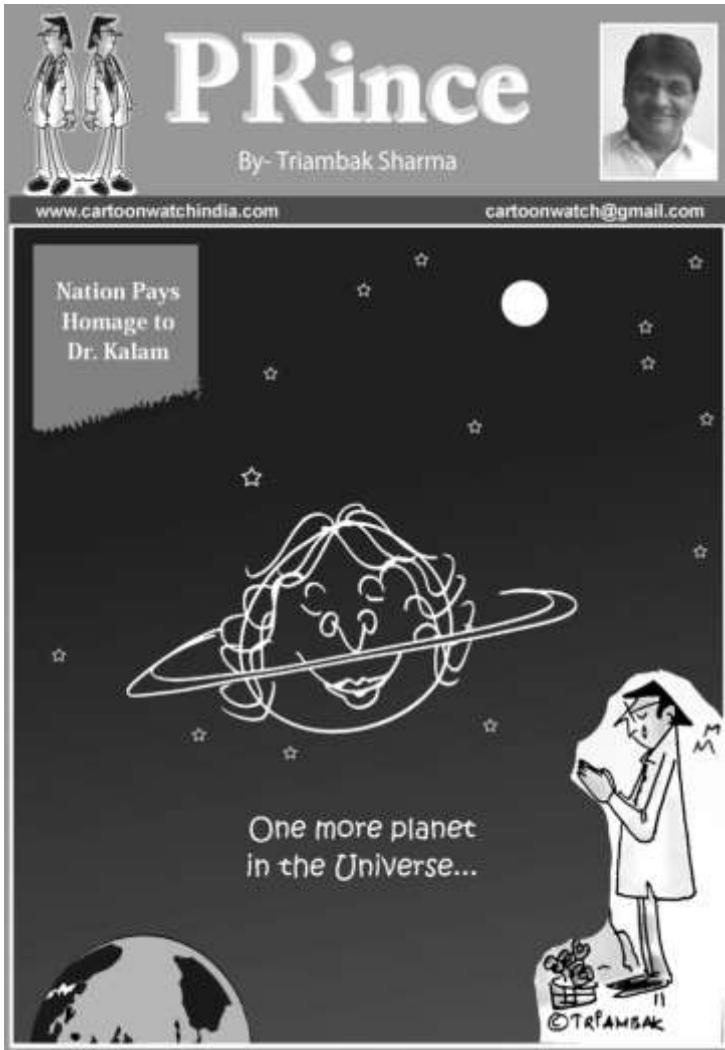


August 2014



October 2014





*Prince paying homage to Dr Abdul Kalam in July 2015 edition*



# PRince

By- Triambak Sharma

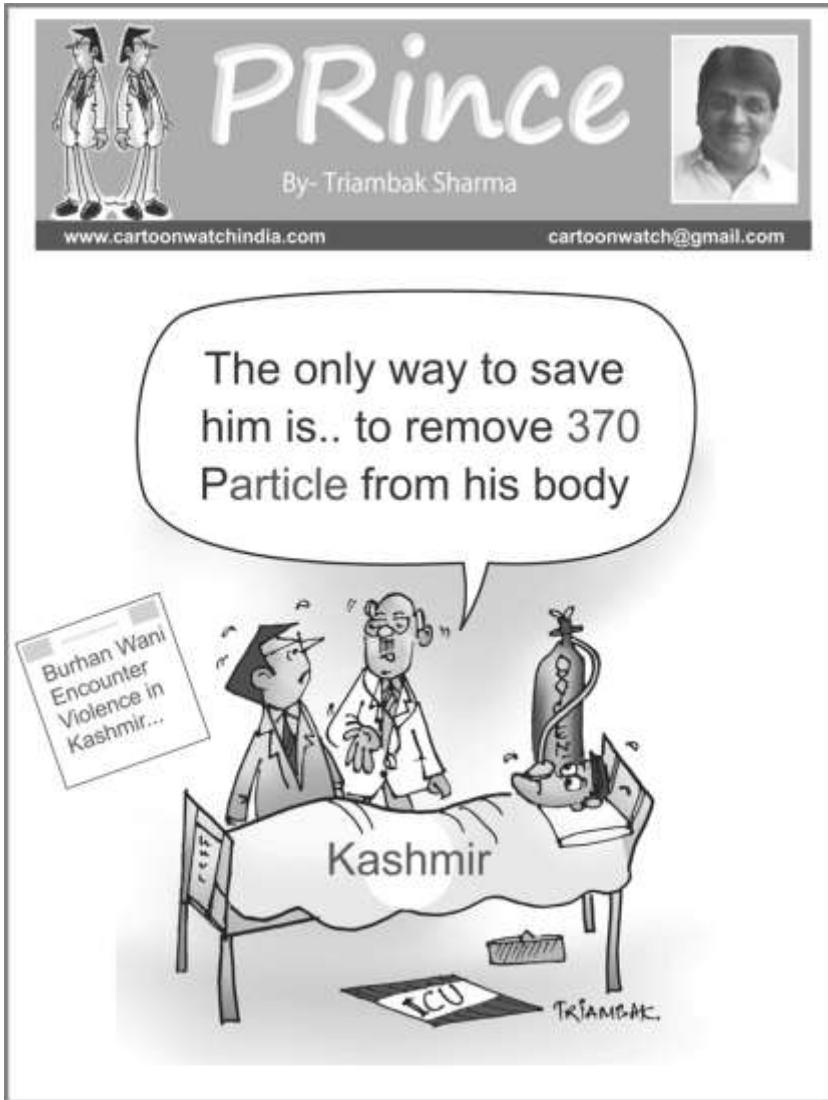


[www.cartoonwatchindia.com](http://www.cartoonwatchindia.com)

[cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)

**I AM WORKING ON CORPORATE AASAN  
AND PR AASAN TO IMPROVE  
COMPANY'S HEALTH..**







# PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



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

[cartoonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:cartoonwatch@gmail.com)

**DAD..IS IT TRUE THAT..  
CARTOON CHARACTER  
DONALD..  
IS NOW  
U.S.PRESIDENT..??**





# PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



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March 2017

## **Section VI: Media and Communication**

## Is Freedom of Expression Absolute?

### Case Study 1: Charlie Hebdo

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the whole world was shaken by the shocking news of the massacre of 17 journalists and cartoonists of Charlie Hebdo, as well as some innocent people, by a group of Islamic terrorists in Paris. The reason was that in 2011, the magazine had carried some objectionable cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed. It is reported that the magazine had published similar cartoons of icons of other religions, as well.

More than three million people including 40 world leaders participated in a march across France to protest against the killings. Journalists and

#### Charlie Hebdo issue



cartoonists debated about “freedom of expression”. There were also counter protest marches in several parts of the world against the magazine, Charlie Hebdo for hurting the sentiments of a religious community.

### Case Study 2: A Book in South India

Around the same time in South India, another controversy cropped up. Perumal Murugan, a Tamil writer published a book, ‘*Mathorubaagan*’ in 2010. In the novel, the author wrote about the childless married women of a particular community in a particular town in the state of Tamil Nadu in South India. He narrated how they used to have clandestine relationships with other men during the temple festival day and bear children thereafter. (Although the author had named the community and the town in his book, the same is withheld in this article.)

### Perumal Murugan issue



When the English translation of the book was released in 2014, the particular community raised protests and demanded the withdrawal of the book from the market. Writers and activists ganged up in defence of the author, claiming 'freedom of expression'. The entire town showed their solidarity against the author, by pulling down their shutters for a day in January 2015. Although the author was defended in the social media as well as in seminars held in the cities, none of the activists had the courage to defend the author in that particular town.

The Government formed a peace committee to address the crisis. The author later apologised for the contents and admitted that he did not possess any documentary evidence to support his claim. All his books were withdrawn from the market. In spite of these steps to resolve the situation, the topic was debated on various TV channels and other media, in their attempt to defend their freedom of expression.

### How Far Does One's Liberty Go?

These two incidents have brought the issue of the freedom of expression to the forefront. Can there be an absolute freedom of expression for anyone in the world? There is a saying, "Your liberty to swing your fist ends just where my nose begins".

Does the media, the writers or anyone have the right to absolute freedom of expression because they express their views in the public domain? Is there or should there be a restriction?

### **Double Standards of the Media**

Very unfortunately, in India, the media exhibit double standards on such sensitive issues. One of the leading newspapers published 'I am Charlie' posters, with a photograph of marchers in Paris protesting against the killing. After printing nearly 50 percent of the newspapers, the editorial board realised that such photos might hurt the sentiments of a section of a community in India. The photograph was withdrawn from the remaining issues of the newspaper. An apology was also published to state "Some copies of XXXX (name of the newspaper withheld) dated January 18, 2015, carried an image of people holding copies of the French magazine, Charlie Hebdo, featuring the cover page with the image, which might have offended a section of our readers. The image was removed mid-way through the print-run. XXXX (name of the paper) regrets and apologises for the inadvertent and accidental use of the image - Editor".

Four days prior to this incident, the same newspaper had concluded their editorial stating, "The rights under the Constitution are designed to protect the freedom of expression of writers like Perumal Murugan who may seek to question uncomfortable truths from the past. It is a pity that a range of forces conspired to silence him".

A few years ago, there was a protest in the media against Salman Rushdie, who wrote some portions in his book that hurt religious sentiments. The same media defended M. F. Hussain, the artist who portrayed a Hindu goddess in what many people regarded as distasteful and disrespectful. They justified it as freedom of expression in art.

### **'Faith' is always a 'Faith'**

Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, etc. are called 'faiths'. Billions of people worship their respective gods or their founders. Such allegiance and belief is built and followed only on faith and it is often difficult to rationalise them scientifically. Any writing, picture or speech which portrays these faiths in poor light is likely to hurt the religious sentiments of these billions of followers. In this scenario, nobody can claim any absolute liberty that risks hurting the feelings of a large number of people. Protesting and defending such actions selectively is also unfair and not in good taste.

The same can be said of the cartoons published by Charlie Hebdo. The Islamic people have the right to decry such cartoons and take suitable legal actions against these publications. Unfortunately, the killing of the cartoonists by the terrorists has diverted the focus from the issue. Charlie Hebdo received the sympathy and support they did not deserve. They cannot claim the publishing of such provocative cartoons as their freedom of expression.

### **The Indian Constitution and IPC**

Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution provides freedom of speech and expression to all citizens of India. Article 19(2) imposes reasonable restrictions on the same, on grounds of security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency and morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offence, and sovereignty and integrity of India.

Sections 153A, 153B, and 295-298 of the Indian Penal Code contain the restrictions on the freedom of expression. It also includes the punishment for violation.

### **Freedom of Expression and Misuse of this Right**

We often forget the fine line between freedom and misuse of a right. While freedom of speech gives a person the right to express his opinion, he should not forget his responsibility to respect religious sentiments. The media too should address these issues objectively and fairly. They should not defend or protest selectively. The freedom of any one person should not infringe upon the rights of the society in the name of creativity.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor-in-Chief*

*Source: January 2015 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Time Management – Defining Priority of Tasks to Avert Crisis

In Time Management, there is a popular quadrant to define priority of tasks and arrange them appropriately in a planner.

<b>Important and Urgent</b> (1)	<b>Important but not Urgent</b> (2)
<b>Not Important and Not Urgent</b> (3)	<b>Not Important but Urgent</b> (4)

Box 1 Important and urgent – crisis activities

Box 2 Important but not urgent - planned activities

Box 3 Not important and not urgent - diversion activities

Box 4 Not Important but urgent - surprise activities

Another important feature is what is called the priority shift,

which is a task's priority moving from one box to another. The most common shift is from "planned (Box 2) to crisis (Box 1)". The common reason for this shift is procrastination.

### Time Management Case Study in Ramayana

In Kishkinda Kanda of Ramayana, Rama kills Vali and makes Sugriva the king of Kishkinda. Rama tells Sugriva to come back after the rainy season is over and help him in searching for Sita. Rama stays in a cave outside Kishkinda during that period.

Sugriva who became a king after a long time, indulged too long in sensual pleasures that he forgot to report to Rama in time. Rama got angry and told Lakshmana to go to Kishkinda and threaten Sugriva for life. When Lakshmana did the same, Sugriva apologised and fell at the feet of Rama. Rama was kind and relented. Hanuman and Nila, the commander in chief gathered a huge monkey army which reported at site.

Sugriva gave them orders and they went in search of Sita. Sugriva did not realise the priority shift i.e. the planned activity of searching for Sita after the rainy season, when postponed, became a crisis which almost cost him

his life. In fact, a good time manager can move items from box 1 (crisis) to box 2 (planned) by analysing the root cause of a crisis and making a process correction for the next time. That is to say, he defines the "when, what, who and how" so that it is dealt with before becoming a crisis next time.

*Source: September 2007 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **12 Tips to Draft an Effective Press Release**

1. Use inverted pyramid style.
2. Confine the 'lead' to 25 words, using 5W and 1H method (where, when, why, who, what and how).
3. Provide proper caption, place and date
4. Write in third party language.
5. Remember, your immediate audience is the 'News Editor'. He should get interested in the story.
6. Avoid cliché, superlatives and advertorial materials, to please the boss or client.
7. Use quotes of competent authorities, relevant to the story.
8. Furnish contactable phone or mobile numbers of the persons, who can provide additional information.
9. Print the release on the letter head of the company. Duly signed press release may be sent through email followed by hardcopy through fax or delivery.
10. Provide duly translated press release to the regional language media,
11. Simultaneously post the release in the company's website under 'media room'.
12. Avoid sending bulky attachments to journalists, without their consent. Respect others bandwidth.

*Source: October 2006 issue of ezine PreSense*

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## Avoiding Miscommunication – An Interesting Procedure in the Indian Railways and the Airlines

Two persons, the loco pilot and the assistant loco pilot operate the locomotive. Due to the huge noise in the cab (where the pilots are seated),



oral communication between the two is likely to be distorted. To avoid this, Indian Railways follow a unique system. The assistant pilot would watch the signal positions and alert the main pilot.

When the assistant pilot sees the green signal about half a kilometre away, he would shout out loud like a military command, “Signal Proceed”. On hearing this, the main pilot would also see the signal and shout back in a loud voice, again like a military command, “Yes Signal Proceed”. They will also use the other commands like “Signal Caution”, “Signal Attention”, “Signal Danger” in the similar manner. In spite of the noisy environment in the loco, they are able to follow the commands correctly. It is reported that so far, no accident has occurred due to ‘miscommunication’. Any accident would have occurred due to ‘misinformation’.

In the airlines, there are two pilots (the commander and the co-pilot) operating the aircraft in the cockpit. When one of the pilots would be in conversation with the ATC (Air Traffic Controller), the other pilot would be monitoring the conversation.



Even at the ATC Tower, one officer would be giving commands to the planes and another officer would

be monitoring, listening through his headset, to avoid any miscommunication and misunderstanding.

When ATC says "Air India 123 Mumbai Control Climb flight level three-six-zero", the pilot from the plane would repeat the same words, while the others would monitor their conversation. To avoid any miscommunication, they use three-six-zero, instead of three hundred and sixty.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief, PreSense*  
*Source: September 2010 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Lord Rama's 7 tips for Presentation

An interesting incident about the components of presentation skills is narrated in Valmiki's Ramayana, the great Indian epic.



In Ramayana, Hanuman meets Lord Rama and Lakshmana for the first time in the forests and introduces himself and his master, Sugriva. This is the first meeting of Hanuman with Lord Rama. Impressed with the way Hanuman communicated, Lord Rama admires the communication and the presentation skills of Hanuman.

In 7 *slokas*, Lord Rama explains the important aspects of communication skills of Hanuman that impressed him most. They are:

1. Hanuman spoke briefly to the point – not too long or too short. He spoke only as much as is necessary.
2. He spoke with clarity and without ambiguity.
3. He spoke without any grammatical errors.
4. He used the appropriate words that cannot be better expressed with any other word.
5. He spoke in moderate volume that is audible to the other person – not too loud or too feeble.
6. His pronunciation of words was correct. The way his pronouncing of the words sounded musical and pleasant.
7. His words touched the heart, making it effective communication.

We can apply the above seven skills are applicable too for effective presentation. Please watch the podcast interview with Mr B S Raghavan IAS (Retd.) about the above 7 aspects.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKPRqWsG-50>

*Source: November 2010 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Confusing Media Priority

### Sheena Murder Mystery vs. GSLV-6 Launch

Last week (third week of August 2015), leading news headlines at prime time on the mainstream news channels screamed about the high profile and sensational “Sheena Murder” mystery. The other news headlines that followed included the capture of a terrorist, the victory of the Indian cricket team over Sri Lanka in their second test match and finally, just before fading away, came the news of the successful launch of the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) D6 which carried India's latest communication satellite GSAT-6. The "Sheena Murder" story continues to occupy prime time on TV even as we write this article (31st August 2015).



The “Sheena Murder” case then took over most of the main part of the “news in detail”. Reporters were sending real-time sound-bites from different parts of the country

where Sheena’s family members were residing. The Sheena murder mystery was the primetime news in all the main news channels. There were analyses, debates, interviews, and speculations about what could have happened and what could happen. We had panelists who were unconnected with the case, and whose contribution to the debate was by way of mere speculations and inconsiderate character assassination of the suspects.

The satellite-carrying GSLV launched in Sriharikota in the state of Andhra Pradesh in South India, is intended to end India’s dependence on foreign launch vehicles for its own satellites. It was a project that took 10 years and 150 Indian industries which supplied its components – a proud moment for its scientists and the Indian people. Yet it barely managed as brief news in the fag-end of the news prime time.

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## **Independence and Accountability**

This brings us to the issue of independence, responsibility and accountability. Our democracy is perceived to be based on four pillars namely the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the media. Each of these pillars functions independently but is also accountable.

- The legislature enacts the law and is accountable to the voters when the representative members go to the people during election time. The legislature is also monitored by the judiciary, which has in the past overturned out-of-place decisions passed by the legislature.
- The executive implements the law and is accountable to the legislature and the judiciary.
- The judiciary interprets and upholds the law. The accountability of judiciary is now being debated especially in these days of judicial activism and discussions are underway, for major reforms to make the judiciary accountable to the other pillars and the people.
- In this backdrop, the fourth pillar that is generally accepted in modern India is the media, with its social role as the “conscience keeper”. The other pillars, namely the legislature and the executive, are monitored by the media on behalf of the people. Even judicial functions are debated in media. Currently, the media is unaccountable to anybody. It is only in case of defamation by the media can one turn to the courts for relief. Even then, the judicial process being long and cumbersome, few people turn to the courts for relief. For this very reason, the media must function under a self-governed responsibility.

## **News Channels**

People are mainly exposed to the news that the media feeds them with. Over the years, the electronic media has taken over the print media in reaching current news to the people. It is able to provide real-time news, updated by the minute, through a variety of platforms such as debates, interviews, live coverage and spot sound bytes. News channels bring news to the living room of the common people on a 24/7 basis. The reporters of

the news channels vie with one another in the field to be the first to broadcast the latest.

The media plays an important role in bringing true, unbiased and balanced information to the people. However, of late, it seems to have shifted its primary focus to topping Television Rating Points (TRPs). The media has begun building sensationalism into the prime news, or else sensational news became the prime news.

The media's sensationalised coverage of the incidence of rapes in India has damaged the image of our country at the international level. Some countries issued travel advisory to their citizens about travelling to India, as if the country was full of rapists. Statistics show that rapes occur more frequently in many other countries including the developed ones. (<http://www.more.com/news/india-rape-capital-world>; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape\\_statistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_statistics)). No doubt, this does not condone the act in India, but what is required is a fair and balanced portrayal of the situation by the media. Indians living in foreign countries face a tough time convincing the local people about the true and fair image about India.

During the recent pandemonium in the Houses of the Parliament, when some of the members disrupted the normal proceedings of the House, the media were up in arms, and rightfully so, pulling up the erring members and demanding that they did their job for which they were elected. Today, the media needs to be pulled up too for the way they have been dealing with news and views.

### **Survey: 80% People Dissatisfied with Mainstream Media**

The media may argue that they are bringing to the people what they want viz. sensational news. This is not necessarily the case as a recent survey revealed. A survey was conducted by a group of individuals from top academic, professional and corporate sectors called The Indian Iris, to gauge the public perception of mainstream media. It was conducted both online (email and Facebook) and offline among over 500 respondents, mostly in the age range of 18-40 years. (<http://www.opindia.com/2015/07/survey>).

The results show that a whopping 80 percent of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction over the quality of today's mainstream media, while 87% felt the media was biased. 70% found the prime time debates chaotic and

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meaningless while 23% thought the debates were more an entertainment than of any other relevance. When comparing the print media with the electronic media, the former had more loyalists with 22% finding it reliable, as against a meagre 4% for the electronic media. When the survey asked about the respondents' expectations from the future media, most of them wanted **fairness and transparency**.

Therefore, it certainly is high time the media did some introspection on why public trust has eroded to such an extent, going by the survey, and if it needs to re-focus on their primary role and responsibility. It would be a relief if the media could get back on track to doing what they are meant to do – bringing news and views that are true, balanced and unbiased.

*by Susan Koshy, Editor*

*Source: August 2015 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Spreading Rumours through WhatsApp and Other Social Media

Of late, it has become fashionable to post all and sundry information on social networking sites like Facebook and WhatsApp. In a nation with a tech-savvy Prime Minister taking selfies with other dignitaries, and encouraging his visitors to take selfies with him, this selfie mania is quite understandable. But when it comes to posting someone else's picture or a controversial opinion or spreading rumours, or even just information without knowing the genuineness and authenticity of the news, it becomes a serious issue.



For a nation marching ahead in Digital India, e-governance and digital communication, it is a major concern.

- i) if the people are not aware of the repercussions of spreading falsehood in a social networking site, or
- ii) if the law is inefficient to curb such menaces, or
- iii) if the police is incapacitated technically or legally to handle such activities.

Earlier, there was a powerful Section 66A in the Information Technology Amendment Act, 2008 that stipulated punishment for sending offensive messages through communication services. It spoke of 'grossly offensive' messages of 'menacing character' and messages transmitted 'for the purpose of causing annoyance', knowing to be false, to deceive or mislead etc. All these expressions were best suited to define an offence of spreading falsehood, cyber stalking or even alarming the public through an electronic communication. Unfortunately, this section was repealed by the Supreme Court in an historic judgement in March 2015.

Spreading rumours and disturbing public peace continues to be a punishable offence, as per the 155-year old time-tested Indian Penal Code and the police still have the powers to book culprits who spread unfounded messages on a public post like Facebook or WhatsApp and cause public disturbance. It is better to think twice about the genuineness of a post in

WhatsApp or about its necessity to be made available in a public domain. Those posting the photos of their private domestic functions should think twice before posting it on Facebook. Would they display their wedding album or the photo album of their domestic function at a railway station, and would they call the people on the street to their house to show them these photographs! Then, why post them in public domains?

Most of the media rejoiced when the Section 66A was removed by the Supreme Court in a misguided comfort that freedom of expression has been protected. The government in an overt move to project itself as a saviour of the freedom of press, did not defend the strength of the Section, and allowed it to die. Now, during the massive rains in the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and in other similar critical situations, when people resort to and spread some unfounded news through WhatsApp, the same media is now concerned that a powerful weapon in the hands of the police has been lost.

On the question of posting some indecent selfies and socially disturbing photos on the networking sites, just as the originator of the news should behave responsibly and desist from posting them, the subsequent users too, who simply forward the mail or the information, should show the responsibility and discretion of a mature netizen.

*By V Rajendran, Editorial Team*

*Source: November 2015 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Incredible India or Intolerant India? Role of Celebrities and Media in Society



During the past three months, some celebrities and writers have been accusing a section of the Indian society of being increasingly 'intolerant'. They have also returned their awards in protest. Strangely, the 'drama' of protests suddenly ceased soon after the Bihar Elections.

Some suspected that this 'drama' was stage-managed to influence the electorate against a particular political party or parties. Interestingly, one of the activists who spearheaded the 'Award Wapsi' movement has since received an Award.

It is also suspected that some of the communication agencies were also involved in this 'operation defame', with the support of some of the Indian media.

### Blemishing India's Image

What is disturbing to know is that in the course of these accusations against a specific sect, India as a nation got a beating in its image in the global society as a country with serious national issues of intolerance.

### The Aamir Khan Controversy

After a temporary lull following the Bihar elections, film actor, Aamir Khan stirred the controversial issue of 'intolerance' again with his off-the-cuff comment. At a function he graced recently he said, "My wife Kiran and I have lived all our lives in India. For the first time, she said, should we move out of India? That's a disastrous and big statement for Kiran to make to me.

She fears for her child. She fears about what the atmosphere around us will be. She feels scared to open the newspapers every day. That does indicate that there is a sense of growing disquiet." This statement re-ignited a nationwide debate and displeasure among some of the Indians, including his fans, for his lack of discretion in making a public statement of such sensitivity.

The renowned Indian music composer, A R Rahman endorsed the opinion of rising intolerance in the country. A R Rahman was referring to the '*fatwa*' issued against him by an Islamic body, for composing music for a film which carried a reference to their Prophet. The Delhi Government had to cancel his public performance in September 2015 because of the threat of the '*fatwa*'. Unfortunately, these comments were assumed and debated by the media as targeting specific communities.

### **Action and Reaction**

Newton's third law states "every action has an equal and opposite reaction". This scientific inference is equally applicable to human behaviour. When someone provokes, the natural tendency is to expect a 'reaction' from the other person. The Godhra and the Post-Godhra, the Kashmir Pandits' exodus, the banning of selected books, the terrorist attacks including that of 26/11, the 1984 Sikh riots, provocative statements by political leaders and celebrities, can be quoted as examples. When celebrities and renowned writers make provocative statements, they incite reactions from the masses. The media rarely debates on the legitimacy of the 'provocation', and instead blows the 'reactions' out of proportion. This leads to tension and emotional unrest in the society.

Recently, the Karnataka Government made an impromptu announcement of the decision to celebrate 'Tippu Jayanthi' without any section of the society demanding it. The State Government celebrated Tippu Jayanthi on the day of Deepavali Festival (10th November 2015), even though his date of birth was 20th November. Tippu Sultan, in spite of his reputation of having supported Hindu temples, he is also regarded negatively in several of the districts by different communities. To add to this provocation, a renowned artiste suggested publicly that Bengaluru Airport be renamed with Tippu's name replacing its existing name of Kempe Gowda, the Father of Bengaluru. These actions and suggestions provoked the sentiments of the majority community. They took to the streets in protest and a local leader died in a

scuffle with the Police. Surprisingly, these so-called 'intellectuals' and the media blamed the protestors alone for the violence and not the Government which had incited the volatile situation. This incident created more tension in Karnataka and unnecessarily created animosity among the people who were living in harmony.

### **'DNA' of Indians**

Traditionally, Indians have been known for their high level of tolerance in the society. '*Sarva dharma, sama bhava*' (treat all faiths equally) is the essence of the Indian culture. India has tolerated even the meanest of tyrants who destroyed the Indian culture. India has never invaded any country and had never indulged in enforcing its philosophies on others. In fact, India welcomed all faiths and respected them. This tolerance is embedded in the 'DNA' of every Indian, irrespective of the faith and religion he belongs to.

Indians across the country, celebrate festivals like Deepawali (Hindus'), Christmas (Christians'), Ramzan (Muslims'), Nauruz (Parsis'), Mahavir Jayanti (Jains'). At the ground level, people of different faiths have lived in harmony with each other. This has been the culture of India over thousands of years.

When the so-called celebrities and writers decide to comment on 'intolerance' in the society, they do not realise that they are generalising on the basis of specifics. The repercussion is that the issue of 'intolerance' has been raised in the Parliament, setting aside some urgent and impending bills that needed to be tabled and decided for the benefit of the nation. Some intellectuals have even taken out a procession in Delhi against this issue, and submitted a petition to the President of India.

### **Role of Media**

It is unfortunate that the Indian media's present trend is to focus more on their TRP ratings than national interest and professionalism. They therefore tend to sensationalise even a trivial law and order issue, exaggerating its implication. Even though every Indian enjoys freedom of expression, media and leaders should realise that freedom of speech is not 'absolute'. This freedom goes with 'responsibility and accountability'. The media and a section of the celebrities should realise the potential impact of their comments and actions, and therefore endeavour to exercise restraint and maturity in their behaviour. As role models and messengers, they should

endeavour to diffuse rather than infuse tension in the society. The media should restrain from inciting emotions through provocative and subjective reporting of incidents in the country. If it must report, it should take care not to paint an emotional tone to the report. The people of national and international significance need to exercise restraint, caution and maturity, realising that what they say or do can impact an entire society and nation. Otherwise, they would be playing a dangerous game, either consciously or unconsciously, of inciting and dividing the people. They must be conscious that the nation is supreme and their fellow citizens of prime regard.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief & Susan Koshy, Editor  
Source: November 2015 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## New Age Techno Strategic Political Communication

The 2014 General Elections witnessed a new way of political campaigning using various technology tools. The campaign model used in the western countries was tweaked to suit the Indian elections and to promote Narendra Modi. In any communication, whether it is a political campaign or corporate branding, a powerful message is sent to the audience through effective media tools, with the purpose of creating a positive or negative perception.



According to S Narendra, Former Information Advisor to various Prime Ministers of India, it involves a strong strategy to successfully flight the message to the right audience through the right media, distinguishing it from the competing messages.

During the freedom movement, Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March created a strong anti-British sentiment among the people. While Mahatma Gandhi was undertaking the Salt March in North India, Rajaji simultaneously undertook a Salt March in the south, to galvanise the entire country. In both the events, 'common salt' was the message and the 'March' was used as a 'Media' tool, to communicate the message to the people. For any successful campaign, the message should relate and appeal to the audience.

'Strategic' is a key word that represents the most critical input. A strategy is not very useful without such a critical input, an input that is a force multiplier. The strategic input can be an investment, person, alliance, a message, event or a decision.

### The 1947-1990 Era

During this pre-liberalisation period, the radio and print media were mainly used. The ruling party had the opportunity of using the public sector organisations to promote the achievements of the Government through their advertisements.

During the first General Elections held in 1952, Jawaharlal Nehru and the Congress Party contested on a symbol of 'two bullocks tied to a yoke' and won massive majority. In the later days, Indira Gandhi used the 'Çow and Calf' symbol and the Janatha Party used 'a Farmer Within a Wheel'. These

symbols were in themselves powerful messages to connect with the people and appeal to them.

In 1971, Indira Gandhi used the powerful message '*Garibi Hatao*' and swept the elections. During the 1989 elections, VP Singh used the powerful message of the 'Bofors Scandal' against Rajiv Gandhi. BJP used the 'Ram Mandir' issue to increase the tally.

During this period, the political parties used conventional methods of the print media. At that time, only the All India Radio and Doordarshan were the electronic media available and mostly used by ruling party. Political campaigns were based on public meetings, personal contact with voters, wall posters, banners, notices, etc. Cinema, stage dramas, street plays and cut-outs were used by political parties in the south to promote their philosophies. MGR, Karunanidhi, Annadurai, NT Ramarao, Jayalalitha and Raj Kumar emerged from the film industry to acquire political power.

### **The 1990-2014 Era**

After the economic liberalisation in 1991, the emergence of the television (TV) media changed the campaign strategies. Political parties started owning TV channels to promote their parties. In 1993, Sun TV was started as an entertainment channel with an agenda of promoting the DMK political party. Later on, many more parties started their own channels.

In 1996, the BSP leader, Kanshiram slapped Ashutosh (now a spokesperson of AAP), then reporter in NDTV, when he was asked some uncomfortable questions. That led to the political parties thinking in terms of engaging professional agencies for handling the media and appointing spokespersons to engage the media.

The BJP and the Congress parties began using Professional Public Relation (PR) Agencies like Good Relations India and Perfect Relations to handle media relations on their behalf. After 2004, national parties began using professional agencies in the states they were ruling (mostly in the north and the west), for election campaign.

Soon, national parties set up their own Internal Campaign Managers, to professionally handle the campaign. Arun Nehru (Congress) Arun Jaitly (BJP),

Narendra Modi (BJP), Pramod Mahajan (BJP) and Jairam Ramesh (Congress) emerged as good campaign managers.

The 2004 General Elections saw the emergence of 'theme-based advertisements'. BJP heavily campaigned under the theme 'India Shining', employing the Advertising Agency Grey, reportedly spending around Rs.600 crores for the campaign. For the first time, the Indian Elections witnessed a corporate type of advertisements. Although the Congress was weak, they used the campaign '*Aap Ko Kiya Mila*' (What Did You Get). Although the economy was upbeat and BJP had spent a huge amount their campaign, they could not form the Government in 2004. Experts opine that the negative campaign run by BJP on Sonia Gandhi as a 'foreigner' coupled with the 'India Shining' campaign of BJP could not win them the elections. The common voters could not connect with the 'India Shining' theme.

Technology was used only to a limited extent in the 2004 General Elections. BJP projected Vajpayee as PM Candidate. For the first time in the Indian elections, a candidate was projected as a PM candidate.

After 2004, Political Communication Strategists emerged in a small way to support individual leaders at the regional level.

In the 2009 General Elections, both BJP and Congress used technology tools like the social media, SMS / telephone campaign, etc. Advani and Dr Manmohan Singh were projected as PM candidates of BJP and Congress respectively. BJP was the major user of technology tools. BJP lost the elections.

Till 2009, there was no 'paid media' concept. Political parties appointed advertising agencies to plan and place their advertisements.

### **The 2014 (Post Modi) Era**

Narendra Modi (BJP) used technology tools like the social media, 3D hologram, mobile phones, smart phones, etc in Gujarat Assembly Elections in 2012.

Political Techno Strategies were used in the 2014 General Elections. Professionals like Prashant Kishore supported the BJP campaign. A more professional approach towards the campaign, like survey, big data analytics, and micro-management of the campaign through technology were used.

New technologies like Augmented Reality (QR code) and Virtual Reality (like hologram) were also used.

The campaign branded Narendra Modi as PM candidate. Slogans like '*Acche Din*' (Good Days/Times) and '*Aap ki Bar Modi Sarkar*' (This Time, It's Modi's Government) attracted voters nationwide. They involved the youth through the social media. The campaign was supplemented by a large number of road shows (public meetings) in different states. The Congress could not match the technology-driven campaign of BJP. BJP and its alliance parties won the election with a big margin, leaving the Congress disappointed.

The same model was used in other state elections held subsequently in Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Delhi. The BJP lost in Delhi and Bihar, indicating that creating 'hype' alone might not be enough to win elections and that it should be coupled with field work. This new type of campaign will be adopted in the 2016 Assembly Elections. Some of the regional political parties have begun employing the expertise of professionals for their campaigns.

After 2009, media houses were encouraging 'sponsored news' or 'paid news' to propagate positive and success stories. Although the Election Commission and the Press Council of India have banned the 'paid news' concept, excepting a few media houses, many others have been promoting this concept for earning revenue. Ironically, the same media houses shout about 'values and ethics', while they go about to the extent of publishing/telecasting sponsored 'opinion polls' in favour of one party or the other.

### **Traditional Vs Modern Campaign**

In the traditional campaign, the political leaders and workers had personal interaction with the voters. After the introduction of the technology campaign, personal interactions were lost. Since 80% of the voters are not connected with technology tools, traditional campaign model requires to be supplemented. The technology tools are useful for creating a 'brand image'.

In the traditional model, the leaders emerged from the grass root level with knowledge about the nuances of various problems. Vajpayee, Advani, Karunanidhi, MGR, NTR, Kamaraj, Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, Narasimha Rao, Bansilal, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Lallu Prasad Yadav, Mayavati, Mamta

Banerjee and Sharath Pawar are examples of such leaders who had emerged from the grass root. But in the technology model, leaders are emerging from the social media, eg. Arvind Kejriwal, and Narendra Modi as PM candidate).

Hype is created through intensive campaigns using the social media and other technology tools, the projected leader runs the risk of losing his image when the campaign ceases. In other words, the leaders or the brand created out of this hype is unable to stand on their own but rely on a virtual standing. For this reason, a fair mix of both traditional and technology strategies is necessary.

Presently, political parties suffer from a bad culture of hooliganism, rowdyism, etc. In future, it is hoped that a balance can be maintained in the political culture, with the emergence of new-age educated leaders.

*By K Srinivasan, Editor in Chief*  
*Source: January 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Snippet About Oscar Award



The Academy Awards or popularly known as the Oscars is a group of artistic and technical honors given annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) to recognize excellence in cinematic achievements in the United States film industry as assessed by the Academy's voting membership. The winners under the various categories are awarded a copy of a statuette, officially called the Academy Award of Merit, which has become commonly known by its nickname "Oscar." The awards, was first presented in 1929 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel

The awards ceremony was first broadcast on radio in 1930 and televised for the first time in 1953. It is now seen live in more than 200 countries and can be streamed live online. The Academy Awards ceremony is the oldest entertainment awards ceremony. Its equivalents - the Emmy Awards for television, the Tony Awards for theatre, and the Grammy Awards for music and recording – are modeled after the Academy Awards.

A total of 3,048 Oscars have been awarded since the inception of the Award through its 88 editions. The statuette, made of gold-plated britannium (a specific type of pewter alloy, composed of tin, antimony and copper) stands on a black metal base. It is 13.5 in (34.3 cm) tall and weighs 8.5 lb (3.856 kg). It depicts a knight rendered in Art Deco style, holding a crusader's sword, on a reel of film with five spokes. The five spokes represent the original branches of the Academy: Actors, Writers, Directors, Producers, and Technicians.

As of 2016, eleven Indians have been nominated for a total of fourteen Oscars, five Indians of whom have won a total of six Oscars. Three Indian films have been nominated in the Best Foreign Language Film category. As of 2016, at least one film has been submitted by 118 countries.

*Sukruti Narayanan, Editorial Team*

*Source : February 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Evolution of Advertising

The world of advertising is a billion-dollar global industry today. However, it evolved from very humble beginnings, the history of which dates as far back as 4000 B.C. when people used symbols marked on goods to identify them with the sellers. The evolution of advertising is an interesting sequence of events starting from the age of the sign language to the present world of abbreviations and taglines. Incidentally, the word “advertising” comes from the Latin word, *Advertere* to mean “turn towards”.

The stages of evolution can mainly be classified into the Pre-Industrial Age and the Post-Industrial Age. The advancements in the advertising industry was manifold and a hundred times more rapid during the period after the 1900s as against the period before the 1900s.



**Printing Press  
invented in 1440**

In the pre-industrial age, people were obviously unaware of the concept of mass production as there was no machine involved. People worked on the barter system, *ie.* exchange of one good for another instead of exchange of goods over money. “Word of mouth” was the means to “spread the good news” about a product. In order to differentiate among the goods like cattle, grain or any type of goods possessed, people used to mark them with a symbol, otherwise called branding. Since the common people did not know how to read or write, they recognised

symbols and understood the ‘town criers’ (people carrying messages from one place to another and announcing them). Paintings on walls and carvings on stones were other common forms of advertisement.

When paper was invented by the Chinese in 105 A.D., it was mainly used to pad articles such as bronze mirrors, until the advent of the paper mill in Europe in 1275 A.D. In 1440, a German named Johannes Gutenberg invented the Printing Press which gained popularity. But it took over three decades before the first “Poster Ad” was brought to the world. These



**First Magazine published in  
London in 1731**

Ads were placed on church doors in London. By the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century (1650), the first newspaper Ad appeared, which offered “reward for finding 12 stolen horses”.

In the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Boston Newsletter asked its readers to place Ads for real estate, ships or goods for sale. In 1731, the first general-interest magazine was published in London. At that time, advertisers just played with headlines to garner attention.



**First paid advertisement in 1836**

The 1800s resulted in the onset of the Industrial Revolution where animals were replaced by machines and goods were manufactured in large quantities. In order to differentiate identical looking mass-produced goods, people resorted to advertising to promote their brands. In 1836, the French newspaper, *La Presse* was the first to include paid advertisement in its pages. The same was soon followed in magazines too. This led to the opening of the first advertising agency in Philadelphia, USA by Volney B Palmer in 1850. As modes of transportation advanced, the advertising world saw billboard Ads and transit Ads emerge. A commission-based Ad agency

was started 1869 by Francis Wayland Ayer. And with this, advertising took a professional leap into a world bombarded by Ads, billboards, sound bites, byte slots and so on.

In India, advertising started well before the 18<sup>th</sup> century with hawkers calling out their wares, right from the days when cities and markets first began. The advertising world has since evolved in a big way so that the Indian advertising arena scores high among its global competitors.

*By Sukruti Narayanan, Editorial Team Member*

*Source: July 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Evolution of Advertising - The Branding Boom Era

The evolution of advertising during the pre-Industrialisation period was discussed in the previous edition of this e-magazine (PreSense July 2017). The changes that occurred in the 1900s were dynamic when compared to the evolution that took place over the preceding period of 700 years (between 1200 A.D to 1900 A.D).

Industrialisation resulted in mass production of goods which were similar in nature. This forced merchants to think of ways to project their products as the unique one. They chose advertising as the medium to reach out to people *en masse*. The idea of branding and attractive packaging began to play a key role in sale of goods.

Creativity in branding expanded from print designs in newspapers to aerial advertising of the products, using air balloons; for example, balloons displaying the baby formula brand by Mellin's Food in 1902.

There was progressive advancement every year in technology and this worked in favour of improving branding. In 1903, the Commercial Pacific Cable Company laid the Pacific Telegraph Cable. Nobody thought then that this would help in tele-marketing. The domestic electricity was standardised in 1910, and this created a market for household appliances. Within a decade, America's first radio station, KDKA was launched in Pittsburgh in 1920. This became a medium for branding, and the advertising industry turned out to be nearly a \$3-billion industry by then. In 2016, the global advertising spend was over \$500 billion.

By 1940, television (TV) sets were manufactured in the United States of America, Britain and Germany. After World War II, the sale of TV sets began to boom and the first TV commercial was by Bulova Clocks. (picture)



**First Television advertisement**

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This opened advertising to a different level and creativity played a vital role in drawing attention. Creative teams in the ad world collaborated with artists and copy writers to make interesting film clips.

In 1975, the video cassette recorder (VCR) became popular among the masses. The viewers could watch their favourite programmes without being interrupted by advertisements. The personal computer (PC), introduced by IBM in 1980s, shook the ad world as the attention shifted from TVs to PCs. In the 2000s, mobile phones were the talk of the decade and it emerged as a vital gadget over the decade. This resulted in integrated marketing becoming important in order to increase sales. With the advent of the Internet, which had over 400 million users in the 2000s, the digital age was born. The “wealth of information created a poverty of attention”. This made the concept of brand positioning critical.

There was a paradigm shift from exploiting the traditional ad space to an information overload on the Internet and this resulted in the development of many ad-free channels and applications. Spamming became a very serious problem and people started blocking online ads. The social media tools like FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, Pinterest, SnapChat and many other applications became a medium to reach the target audience currently.

Today, the scenario is such that companies pay consumers to grab their attention and they have gone to the extent of creating sponsored programmes for the viewers. Now, customers find their brand rather than *vice versa*.

*By Sukruti Narayanan, Editorial Team Member  
Source: August 2017 edition of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Section VII: Science and Technology**

## What are Cyber Crimes?

**Phishing** is the process by which someone obtains private information through deceptive means of authenticating credentials, in order to assume someone else's identity. The phisher, viz. the person doing the act of phishing, sends an email and directs the victim to a fake web-site (which appear genuine, say like your bank's website) and advises the user to divulge his User ID for internet banking along with other private information like password, credit card number and possibly the 3-digit code number in the credit card (called the CVV or the CVC). With such information, the phisher then accesses the actual web-site and does an e-commerce or e-banking activity on the victim's bank account.

**Skimming** is the process of copying the magnetic strip information from a credit card into a small handheld electronic device, called skimmer (now available in the form of contactless and remote facility too). It scans and stores the card data from the magnetic strip. Such information is then passed on to the people engaged in the manufacture of counterfeit cards. With the name of the bank and the card-holder (already available at the shop, where the skimming was made), this information will then be embossed in the card and the card looks like original! Fraudsters then indulge in shopping (either in person or on-line) using the fake cards. The victim will get to know of it only after he receives the card statement from the bank.

**Computer hacking** is the act of getting into someone else's computer involving some degree of infringement on his privacy and causing damage to information like computer files or any software stored therein. Unlike most computer crimes and computer misuse which are clear cut in terms of actions and legalities like software piracy etc, hacking is a little more complicated to define and describe as an offence. Hacking may result in a simple invasion or annoyance to a computer, or to the extent of illegal destruction or compromise, affecting the information therein. Ethical hacking (which is now being taught as a subject) involves the use of technical knowledge by individuals, willing to take the risks required to become a true "hacker" to explore the weaknesses in any system and confirm that the computer system is really robust enough to withstand any hacking attempt.

**Spoofing** means maliciously deceiving someone. IP Spoofing refers to the transmission of data with a forged (spoofed) source Internet Protocol address with the purpose of concealing the identity of the sender or impersonating another computer system, thereby duping the receiver to believing that the mail has been sent by the system whose IP address has been forged. Similarly, email spoofing refers to the act of sending an email to make it appear as if it came from somewhere or someone other than the actual one by altering the header information after connecting to the mail server.

**Cyber Stalking** means causing harassment to someone through the computer. Commonly reported forms of stalking include sending repeated emails or SMS to a victim causing mental disturbance or mental agony affecting the behaviour of the victim in a psychological manner. Similar to receiving obnoxious and objectionable telephone calls, the victim receives emails and SMS from the fraudsters, causing embarrassment that affects his mental health.

*By V Rajendran, Editorial Team Member  
Source: October 2008 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **An Overview of Current IT Security Issues, the Future Trends and Possible Actions.**

### **1. Cyber Attacks**

The Internet or World Wide Web (www) is also called Cyber Space. This space connects various computer networks across the World (and in future to the other planets that we might occupy!!). Like each individual, each network is distinct in terms of the IT systems used, the way it is set up, configured and managed. This heterogeneous nature of the network has many weaknesses that are prone to attacks. Cyber terrorism, cyber warfare and cyber vandalism are examples of such attacks. Many such attacks are happening today albeit less in magnitude and in the future, we may face some intensive attacks that could cripple the cyber space.

Co-ordinated efforts from the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) across the world with timely alerts to user communities could mitigate risks from this threat.

### **2. IT Vulnerabilities**

Vulnerabilities in IT systems are holes or errors that are exploitable. They are there due to poor designing or poor coding or both. When the vulnerability is exploited, it results in security violation such as compromise of the IT system, service disruption or obtaining higher privileges. Such vulnerabilities are the root cause of many of the security issues mentioned in this column.

Efforts such as Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE), and National Vulnerability Database (NVD) provide a glimmer of hope for combating and reducing these threats in the future. Based on the knowledge from various hacking/virus/worm related incidents, it is possible to develop secure systems by following the secure coding practices.

### **3. Lack of Monitoring, Security Testing and User Awareness Programs**

Though this is an organisational issue, monitoring of suspicious activities in the network, is performed using IT systems. Information Security is predominantly based on preventive and detective controls. Monitoring assists in devising proactive and reactive actions, based on events. Security testing involves vulnerability assessment, penetration testing and security policy audits. The trends indicate that many organisations do not have or do not follow such procedures.

User awareness in terms of Do's and Don'ts based on organisational security policy must be created. These three activities, if followed regularly, could minimise the risks from the threats mentioned in this column.

#### **4. Identity Theft**

Identity theft refers to stealing one's identity for wilful gain such as money, fame, and power, and for criminal activities. A simple identity theft is stealing a password. Banks and financial institutions are defrauded by impersonation; confidential data are stolen from the Government, military and corporate for terrorism, warfare and espionage due to identity theft. In the future, this issue will assume gigantic proportions as more and more devices join the network bandwagon and establish their identity beside humans.

Digital Certificates, Biometrics such as finger print, voice, face and retina recognition systems, and Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) are some of the effective solutions to this issue and we can expect advancement in this area.

#### **5. Malware**

Malware refers to (Mal)icious Soft(ware) and as the name implies, the purpose is to cause harm to the systems or steal information. Viruses, worms, and spyware such as key loggers, Trojan horses, root kits etc., are examples of malware. The present trend is alarming and statistics show that hundreds of billion dollars are lost due to malware.

Statistics show that more than 50% of online users have reported spyware infection to their systems. Malware exploits system vulnerabilities and human weaknesses. Organised crimes such as planting malware in legitimate websites as online banking, so that it gets automatically downloaded to the computers of the innocent users, are on the rise. Technologies like Web2.0 are also prone to malware infestations.

Future trends indicate the onslaught of more sophisticated malware, and there is need for heightened awareness, using the legal copy of the operating system, anti-virus and personal firewall by the users.

#### **6. Botnet**

Botnet refers to malicious networks managed by Computer Robots. They attack vulnerable computers (called zombies) in the network and use them for attacking other computers, stealing information, storing and transmitting illegal data such as porn movies or pirated and malicious software. We see

proliferation of distributed botnets that automatically switches the controlling computer robot to another computer or network in case of network block by the service provider/law enforcement agencies. This trend is going to increase, and controlling botnets will be a big challenge. There is an unofficial estimation that one quarter of the computers connected to the Internet will be compromised and will become part of botnet. User awareness and periodical vulnerability and activity scanning of computers are necessary for combating this threat.

### **7. Unsolicited Commercial Email**

Spam, as it is popularly known is an issue that drains the network resources such as bandwidth and storage space. Besides, many human hours are wasted in download time and trashing such emails. Important security issues are that spam is used for phishing, pharming and distribution of malware. The root cause of the problem is the way the email is transported and exchanged across millions of mail servers across the world and the weak spam controls. The present trend is more on using zombie computer to send spam as more and more service providers are shutting down spam servers. However, many of the spams originate from servers hosted in countries like Russia, China and Philippines.

Using spam filters, and co-ordination from the countries that do not have stringent laws against spam, is the way to go for solace from this menace.

### **8. Mobile and Wireless Attacks**

The business and user community increasingly adopts mobile devices and wireless networks. Mobile commerce such as banking and shopping are seeing rapid advancements. Common attacks that are perpetrated against such devices and networks include Bluetooth Attacks, SMS Spoofing, Smishing (SMS phISHING), compromising the WEP keys as well as setting up ad hoc networks. In the future, attack sophistication and vectors are bound to increase and this is one area that is going to give a constant nightmare to IT and Security professionals.

User awareness is the key to prevent many such attacks besides stronger authentication mechanisms.

### **9. Web Based Social Engineering**

Social engineering refers to the art of inducing a user to inadvertently perform an action for the purpose of obtaining sensitive information, such as passwords, credit card or bank account information etc. Web-based tactics involve spoofed emails that appear to have come from legitimate

entity such as your bank, asking for personal details, Nigerian scam, illegitimate websites constructed as a lookalike of a legitimate site or in the form of giving away free software, music or video. With the advancement of social networking sites, instant messaging and mobile phone based internet communications are some of the hot spots that will spur this activity to dangerous levels.

People are the weakest link in a security chain. A common sense approach to any access or communication with known/unknown entity on the web must be practised.

### **10. Peer-to-Peer File Sharing**

This refers to the direct communication between two or multiple computers for sharing files such as software, music, video etc. Since this activity involves direct access to the file system of the shared computer, the chances of implanting malware is very high. The concept of trusted source in such a system is weak. Criminal networks operate in the domains that perpetuate organised crime. The trends are more geared towards underground suspicious activities.

Participating in an insecure peer-to-peer file sharing networks must be avoided.

### **Law Governing Your Computer**

#### **Information Technology Act 2008 – India: Section 43A**

Where a body corporate, possessing, dealing or handling any sensitive personal data or information in a computer resource which it owns, controls or operates, is negligent in implementing and maintaining reasonable security practices and procedures and thereby causes wrongful loss or wrongful gain to any person, such body corporate shall be liable to pay damages by way of compensation to the person so affected.

(There are similar provisions in other countries like USA and UK)

*Source: April 2009 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Origin of Email

In 1965, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was the first to demonstrate the use of the email system known as MAILBOX. This was before the internet came into existence and therefore, this system was used to send messages to different users on the same computer.



**Ray Tomlinson**

In 1971, Ray Tomlinson, a former MITian, was working on TENEX operating system as an ARPANET contractor for BBN Technologies. While using a local email program called SNDMSG, Tomlinson created the first email application when he patched a program called CPYNET to the existing SNDMSG. This introduced the capability to copy files through a network and Ray notified his colleagues by sending them the first email. It is said that the first message sent by Ray was 'QWERTYUIOP', which

is formed by typing the first row of characters on a standard keyboard. Mr Tomlinson sent this historic message to himself from one machine to another, sometime in October 1971.

The history of email addresses can also be attributed to Tomlinson. He chose the '@' symbol to provide an addressing standard in the form of "user@host", which is in use till date. This is why Tomlinson is called the 'father of email' and is credited with its invention.



**The room from where Mr Tomlinson sent the first email message from one computer to the other. (Photo courtesy: <http://tenex.opost.com/>)**

*Source: January 2011 of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Cyber Security Information Sharing - the US Initiative**

The Cyber Security Information Sharing Act (CISA), originally introduced in July 2014 and under discussion ever since, was approved last month, after some modifications. It is now made easier for companies to share personal information with the government in case of cyber security threats in USA. The information-sharing channels in the US, created for responding quickly to hacks and breaches, along with intelligence and law enforcement agencies can now enforce surveillance without a warrant. Since the cyber security threat information is shared, it is feared that the threat indicators can be used as evidences to prosecute cyber crimes. This is being condemned as an infringement on the data privacy of individuals in USA, with the privacy advocates opposing it. With the powers vested, the President can now set up 'portals' for agencies like the FBI and National Intelligences, and all such information could be used for law enforcement investigations.

In cyber security worlds, this is being considered a significant and landmark legislation in cyber crime prevention.

It is felt that an Act with similar provisions suitable to the Indian environment should be in place in India too. Alternatively, the Cyber Crime Co-ordination Centre should be operationalised at the earliest to help speedier investigation of cyber crimes and sharing of cyber crime related information among the main stake holder government agencies. More details are available in the following link.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/754>

*By V Rajendran, Editorial Team*

*Source: January 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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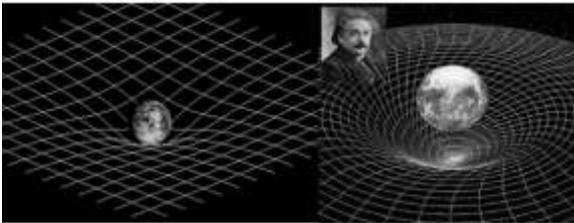
## Gravitational Waves - Discovery of the Century

The announcement by the Scientists on 11th February 2016 about the discovery of 'Gravitational waves', the ripples in the fabric of space-time, electrified the world of astronomy and scientists. This is the discovery of the century as the gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein in 1916. In 1979, National Science Foundation funded California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology to detect the waves. They set up Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory (LIGO) detectors to conduct the study.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the role of Indian Scientists who were part of the team that discovered the 'Gravitation waves'. "The historic detection of gravitational waves will open up new frontier for understanding of universe. Hope to move forward to make even bigger contribution with an advanced gravitational wave detector in the country", he tweeted.

### Gravitational waves explained

We know that a stone tossed up, falls back to Earth because of its gravitational force that draws the stone to the earth. We have the Newton's law to explain and measure the force of gravity. This explanation is sufficient for theoretical understanding. What really happens is the following:



Imagine that two of us hold the four corners of a handkerchief so that the piece of cloth is now a plane surface. Now, imagine placing a very heavy iron ball at the centre of the handkerchief. The shape of the handkerchief gets curved as shown in the figure.

The curved space around a massive object like a star is called Space-Time fabric, since it is not just a change in length-breadth-width that occurs. Time changes too in this curvature. Therefore, a stone thrown above the earth travels back through this curvature of space-time and ultimately touches the

Imagine that two of us hold the four corners of a handkerchief so that the piece of cloth is now a plane surface. Now, imagine placing a very heavy

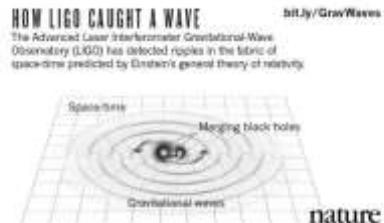
central massive body (Earth), an action we term as the stone falling back on Earth.

If the central massive object remains at rest, or moves at a steady and consistent speed, the curvature of the space-time remains at rest, or moves at the same speed. But if the central mass moves with acceleration, then the changes of curvature of this space-time fabric generates gravitational waves. These waves propagate in space at the speed of light.

Einstein predicted the existence of these gravitational waves in 1916 itself as a consequence of his General Theory of Relativity.

#### **Detection of These Waves**

About 1.3 billion years ago, two black holes, each having a mass of about 30 times our Sun, attracted each other and collided with each other producing intense gravitational waves. INTENSE means these waves have a wavelength measuring millions of miles but with a sub-millimetre height. To detect such an extremely weak gravitational wave, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory (LIGO) Team in USA made a pair of coherent laser beams to travel in mutually perpendicular paths of about 4 km each in length and recorded the changes in the path lengths by observing an unambiguous interference pattern when these gravitational waves were crossed in the observatory. Had Einstein been alive today, he would have been amazed at the technology that enabled this detection.



#### **The Significance of This Discovery**

- For the first time we have direct evidence of a black-hole, rather two black-holes of about 30 solar masses colliding with each other, as predicted by Einstein.
- The gravitational waves that are now detected matched exactly with what Einstein had predicted.
- Where Does This Discovery Lead Us To?
- Just as we have optical and radio telescopes to observe our Universe in-depth, we can now observe through gravitational-waves-interferometers, which can give us unblurred details.

- Our Universe has energy distribution roughly as follows: 68% dark energy, 27% dark matter and 5% normal matter.

Remember that we are all made up of normal matter and hence currently, we can perceive only this 5% of the Universe. With this discovery, we can now probe the dark matter too since they have “mass” and can give rise to gravitational waves.

We can see the Universe close-up to 2 or 3 seconds of its formation! The gravitational waves will pave the way to look in to such a nascent Universe. (please note that we are now able to look at the Universe only after 0.28 billion years of its birth).

### **Benefits to a Common man**

When the experiment at European Organization for Nuclear Research popularly known by the French acronym CERN, Geneva, was organised to detect the “GOD” particle, the scientists had the necessity to interlink many of their research computers, which gave the world the “World Wide Web” (www). The LIGO Labs in India (to be established soon) can now bring distinct advantages to our scientists, researchers, students, the government and the entire country.

The precision of the measurements involved in the detection of gravitational waves are so high that

- early warning systems for disasters like tsunami will be absolute, correct and more reliable on the dot.
- analysis and understanding of DNAs at the bond-level is possible and this can throw more light in understanding healthy and diseased conditions, leading to stunning biological discoveries.
- it will give an unprecedented ability to process really big data, giving a direct advantageous edge – the following list is only indicative and not complete – to our military, disaster management and crisis management.

Please watch this video to get the visual details.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbbMpe17fzA>

*By Dr R. Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor*

*Source: February 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Booking Domain Name for a Company



The head of a popular organisation in India, one day found that the domain name of his organisation was registered with some other person, who was handling its website

management. A few months earlier, the head of the organisation had requested that web designer to book a domain name like *www.mydomain.com* and paid the charges. The web designer instead of booking the domain name in the name of the organisation, booked it in his name. When the head of the organisation requested the web designer to change the registration in the name of the organisation, he was reluctant to oblige. Since the domain, including the user ID and the password of the booking, is in the name of the web designer, the organisation has to depend on the web designer always.

As per the international guidelines of The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), anybody can book the domain name with any extension, barring a few names. The commercial and non-commercial organisations run the risk of their full name or short name being used for domain name booking by any third person, on payment of the required charges. Here are a few tips for secure registration of the domain name, without the risk of being misused.

1. Select your domain name, like 'mydomain'. This name should be short, reflect your organisation and should be easily remembered.
2. Go to any domain booking registrar like Godaddy, Networksolution, Register, etc. Search for your domain name. If it is available, create an account with them with your full name, organisation, postal address, contact numbers, etc. Then you can book your domain name online, paying the required charges through credit card.

3. Every domain name has three contact details viz. Registrant, Admin and Tech. Ensure that the name of your organisation is given as the contact detail for all the three contact categories. Even if you are advising the web designer to book your domain, advise him to book it only in the name of the organisation or the real owner, to avoid any future complications.

4. Once the domain name is booked in the name of the organisation, the web designer will need to visit the control panel of the domain name only when he has to change the DNS Settings or the Name Server Settings. The annual renewal charges can be paid online, when you receive the alert from the registrar.

5. Keep the user ID and the password of Domain Registrar safely and do not share them with others. Using the same user ID, you can book any number of additional domains.

6. To ensure against any misuse of the name of your organisation in the future, you can register several domain names with different connotations like *mydomain.com*, *mydomain.net*, *mydomain.org*, *mydomain.in*, *mydomain.co.in*, etc. All the domains can be pointed towards your main site. If yours are a popular company or organisation, and if you are holding only one domain name *mydomain.com*, another person can book a domain name *mydomain.in* and could create trouble for you. This kind of activity is called 'cyber squatting'. Since cyber squatting has not yet been categorised as an offence under the cyber law, the responsibility of protecting the domain name vests with the genuine owners.

Interestingly, *whitehouse.com* is not with the American Government. It was used as a porn site earlier and now they have parked the site without content.



**parked whitehouse.com site**

*Whitehouse.gov* is the official site of the President of India. There are instances where several leading Indian organisations do not own domain names with other extensions. Such organisations run the

great risk of mischief makers who might purchase these domain names, causing embarrassment.

After reading this article, please visit *who.is* and get the registration details of your personal and official domain names. If there are any discrepancies, you can rectify them immediately and safeguard the interest of your organisation and yourself.

Web designers have no moral or legal authority to book domains in their name on behalf of the organisation when you have asked him to book on your behalf.

For any additional information, contact [info@cysi.in](mailto:info@cysi.in)

*V Rajendran, Editorial Team*

*Source: March 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## The Safety of Women in Cyber Space

### Are Ladies Safe in Cyber Space?

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

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

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

### Problems Faced by Women

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

One of the Chennai-based lady respondents reported that a photographer, whose services were engaged for her wedding, took some close-up pictures

of her in suggestive poses. The photographer then posted one of those pictures on his Facebook page. When she got to know of this mischief, she complained to the Police. However, the police expressed helplessness in taking action against him, as the photographer was politically connected and used his political connections to avoid criminal action against him.

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

In another instance, a male member of a software company proposed his love to his lady colleague, who rejected him. In revenge, the male colleague uploaded photographs of her on various porno sites, with her mobile phone number. She was displayed as a call girl, available for service. The lady colleague experienced acute embarrassment and agony because of his vengeful act. Many of the millions of daughters of India, who are harassed on a daily basis, suffer in silence. Many of them do not go to the Police, and instead tolerate the harassment as their "fate".

### **Section 66A of Information Technology (IT) Act 2000**

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

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

for women in the future, compelling them to ask for re-introduction of this provision.

### **Expert Views**

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

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

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

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

Balu quoted a case of the recent conviction of a software engineer, who indulged in Cyber Stalking before the introduction of 66A. He was convicted by the Court under Sec 67 of IT Act (punishment for publishing obscene material in the electronic form) and Sec 509 of IPC (uttering any word or making any gesture to insult the modesty of a woman). However he feels that 509 IPC which was framed in 1860 does not take into consideration the activities in cyber space. "The new situation warrants a new law", he adds.

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

### **What Victims Should Do?**

Before filing a police complaint, the women, harassed through the mobile phone, Facebook, Twitter or any social medium, can first warn the culprit of dire legal consequences. In 90% of the cases, the culprits will not trouble the victim thereafter. If the culprit pursues with the harassment, the victim can file a police complaint, providing evidence of the harassment. If the Police does not respond, the victim can pursue through women social organisations. They can also approach the courts to issue directives to the Police for action.

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

### **Why Protection to Women?**

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

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

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief  
Source: April 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

## Are Social Networking Sites A Threat to Nation's Security?



Man is a social animal and is naturally communicative. And we find this nature especially pronounced in a country like India. Indians are generally outspoken, ready to share and care. For this reason, not surprisingly, the social networking sites have always

been a big hit in India, possibly growing at a faster pace than anywhere else in the world. Along with its popularity, the social networking medium also runs a high security risk for the user, as no messaging service can be stated to be 100% safe, secure and impenetrable. A service considered secure today could prove to be vulnerable tomorrow. Technology professionals are constantly casting aspersions on the security mechanism available, and are never confident about the fool-proof security strength of any technology.

WhatsApp, in its official website says, *"confidentiality and security are laid down in our DNA"*. It adds that from the very first day it helps *"you stay in touch with your friends, share vital information during a disaster, reunite divorced families....share personal moments ...we have built-in encryption"*. It claims that the photos, videos, calls and documents shared over WhatsApp are protected against unauthorised access. It adds that it does not store the messages on its servers. But the flip side is that this very assurance raises the concern of governments and investigators, engaged in solving and arresting cyber-crime and combating cyber terrorism.

There are interesting debates about lack of security in social networking sites, especially WhatsApp. In fact, there is a lurking fear as to whether one can eavesdrop on WhatsApp calls (i.e. intercepted and accessed) even though WhatsApp assures that the chats and calls are end-to-end encrypted. This assurance raises the comfort level of WhatsApp users in the sense that even if anyone tries to intercept messages using stealth technology, he would not be able to read (i.e. understand) the message. In technical parlance, it means that any chat message in WhatsApp travels in an encrypted mode, i.e. not in plain text. It can be decoded and understood only with the help of a specific decryption methodology only. The comfort

one gets from this assurance is that even if anyone tries to intercept using technology, he would not be able to read (i.e. understand) the message.

On the flip side, however, this privacy of messages (which cannot be intercepted by anyone) can be a major threat to the security of a country. Often, there is criticism that security is breached as terrorists and anti-nationals exploit these private networking media to exchange security-threatening messages and instructions among themselves. Fortunately, there are software tools that can be used for mobile data recovery. These tools can also access WhatsApp data including stored text and pictures, even if they have been 'deleted'.

Of late, there have been many other messenger services emerging, to compete with WhatsApp, such as Telegram, which is gaining popularity. Telegram initially came up with the unique feature of self-deleting the message in the recipient's device too, within a few seconds after the message is sent and received at the other end. Recently, WhatsApp too added this facility of 'delete' or 'revoke' *after* the message has been sent. Although it is touted as a useful tool, it is an added nightmare for cyber-crime investigators because the evidence of messages exchanged between criminals and terrorists could then be destroyed.

And so, the debate continues on the question: "Which is supreme – the priority of the nation's security and sovereignty, OR individual data privacy"? The judiciary has repeatedly held that the nation's security is always supreme and of paramount importance, compared to individual privacy and data security. With the Data Privacy Act being discussed for immediate introduction, one hopes that the legislative provisions will be in place, removing ambiguity in the interpretation of what individual privacy is, and what national security and sovereignty is. India, as a nation in its fast-paced progress in the digital world, anxiously awaits.

*By V. Rajendran, Editor*

*Source : November 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Section VIII: Health Tips**



## Computer Vision Syndrome – 10 Tips to Protect the Eyes

People working on the computers continuously for a long time are likely to be affected by Computer Vision Syndrome

### Symptoms

Irritation in the eyes, watering in the eyes, discomfort, fatigue, mild headache, mild eye ache, brow ache, neck pain etc.

### Precautions to be Taken

1. Do not sit directly under A/C blower. Eye should not get dried up; A/c blow should not be on the eyes.



2. Keep the position of the monitor 24 inches away from your eyes; and 6 inches below your eye level.

3. Every human being blinks the eyes 30 to 40 times a minute. While reading the book, it is reduced to 20 times; while working on the computer, it is reduced to seven times per minute. This leads to dryness of the eyes leading to various symptoms listed above. At frequent

intervals, take your eye from the computer and blink your eyes.

4. Follow the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, look at an object at 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

5. Do eye exercises (like closing and opening of eyes, palming of your eyes and rotating the eyes in all directions, etc.)

6. Use an anti glare screen in the monitor or use glasses with anti-glare coating.

7. Sit in a comfortable chair with arm rest. Sitting posture is very important to avoid neck pains.

8. Use lubricating eye drops in consultation with your eye doctor.

9. Check up your eyes every six months with your eye doctor. If you have any symptoms, consult the doctor immediately.

10. Your spectacles should be prescribed based on the position of the Computer – distance and position of the monitor.

*Source: May 2008 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Ten Brain Damaging Habits

- 1. No Breakfast** - People who do not take breakfast could get low blood sugar level, leading to insufficient supply of nutrients to the brain causing brain degeneration.
- 2. Overeating** - It causes hardening of the brain arteries, leading to a decrease in mental power.
- 3. Smoking** – It causes multiple brain shrinkage and may lead to Alzheimer disease.
- 4. High Sugar consumption** - Too much sugar will interrupt the absorption of proteins and nutrients, causing malnutrition and may interfere with brain development.
- 5. Air Pollution** - The brain is the largest oxygen consumer in our body. Inhaling polluted air decreases the supply of oxygen to the brain, bringing about a decrease in brain efficiency.
- 6. Sleep Deprivation** - Sleep allows our brain to rest. Long term deprivation from sleep will accelerate the death of brain cells.
- 7. Head covered while sleeping** - Sleeping with the head covered increases the concentration of carbon dioxide and decreases concentration of oxygen, leading to brain damaging effects.
- 8. Working your brain during illness** - Working hard or studying with sickness may lead to a decrease in effectiveness of the brain as well as damage the brain.
- 9. Lacking in stimulating thoughts** - Thinking is the best way to train our brain, lacking in brain stimulation thoughts may cause brain shrinkage.
- 10. Talking Rarely** – Intellectual conversations will promote the efficiency of the brain.

*Source: June 2008 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## ABC of Diabetes

Diabetes is a chronic disease that is BEST MANAGED BY YOU, with the support from your family, friends, and the healthcare team. Most people think of diabetes as a disease of high blood sugar, but for many people it is associated with high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Controlling ALL of these factors is important to REDUCE the risk of developing the major complications of diabetes: blindness, foot disease, kidney failure, heart attack, and stroke. In fact, the major cause of disability and death in diabetes is heart disease and stroke. For many persons with diabetes, controlling blood pressure and cholesterol, taking aspirin, and NOT smoking are the most important steps that they can take.

**DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT HEALTH TIPS - ABCs of Diabetes:** It is important for you to know what the optimum and healthy levels for blood sugar, blood pressure and blood cholesterol are. **A1c-** Hemoglobin A1c is a 2-3 month average of your blood sugar level. Know your target number!

**Blood Pressure:** Controlling blood pressure is the most effective treatment for preventing cardiovascular disease in persons with diabetes. Check your blood pressure at home. Have your blood pressure checked at every doctor's visit. Know your target level!

**Cholesterol:** Know your cholesterol level goal to protect your heart!  
Good/Bad Triglycerides (HDL) (LDL)

**Eyes:** Know whether or not you have signs of diabetes related eye disease (retinopathy), and establish a schedule for a dilated (drops in your eyes) eye examination by an eye specialist (optometrist or ophthalmologist).

**Feet:** Check your feet daily. Tell your health provider about any changes. Symptoms of pain and numbness in your feet are not always present, so ask your provider if you see signs of blood vessel or nerve damage in your feet. If you have blood vessel or nerve damage, you are at higher risk for developing severe foot conditions and should be under the care of a foot specialist.

**Kidney Function:** Protein in urine is an early sign of kidney disease. Your health provider can determine this from a urine and blood test.

**Sick Day Management:** Common illnesses can cause problems for people with diabetes. When you are sick, check your blood sugar every few hours. If your blood sugar remains over 250 or is repeatedly below 70, contact your healthcare team or go to the hospital. Take your insulin or diabetes pills unless you cannot take any food or liquid. Drink liquids every hour to avoid dehydration.

**Smoking:** If you smoke or use tobacco, **STOP!**

*Source: July 2008 of Ezine PreSense*

**Attitude is everything: A simple calculator**

Skills	Level of	Attitude	=	Outcome in	Health
Good	+	Good	=	Extraordinary success	Very good
Bad	+	Good	=	Success (with efforts and initiatives)	good
Good	+	Bad	=	Temporary success and final downfall	Bad
Bad	+	Bad	=	Disaster	Bad

*Source: August 2006 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## **Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS)**

Working women encounter many challenges which women of previous generation never faced. Changing life style, work pressure, aspirations have aggravated certain disorders which are never heard of in Indian women. PMS is one of the serious groups of symptoms which affect most of the working women.

Premenstrual syndrome (PMS) is the name of a group of symptoms that usually start up to 14 days before menstruation. The symptoms usually stop soon after period begins. Most women feel some mild discomfort before their periods. But if you have PMS, you may feel so anxious, depressed or uncomfortable that you can't cope at home or at work. Some of the symptoms of PMS are back pain, bloated abdomen, changes in appetite including cravings for certain foods, constipation, spells of distress, depression, rapid heartbeat, irritability, tension or anxiety, tiredness, headache, hot flushes, joint pain, mood swings, disinterest in sex, tender and swollen breasts, difficulty in concentration, trouble sleeping, swollen hands or feet, wanting to be alone and weight gain.

### **What causes PMS?**

It seems to be linked in part to changes in hormone levels during the menstrual cycle. PMS is not caused by stress or psychological problems, though these may make the symptoms of PMS worse.

### **How is PMS diagnosed?**

Your doctor will ask you to keep track of your symptoms on a calendar. If your symptoms follow the same pattern each month, you may have PMS.

### **How is PMS treated?**

There is no cure for PMS, but eating a healthy diet, exercising regularly and taking medicine may help. Your doctor will talk to you about whether you need to change your diet and exercise habits. He or she may also prescribe medicine for you, depending on what your symptoms are and how severe.

they are. Medicines that can be prescribed include diuretics, antidepressants and birth control pills.

### **What are Diuretics?**

Diuretics help your body get rid of extra sodium and fluid. They can ease bloating, weight gain, breast pain and abdominal pain. Diuretics are usually taken just before you would normally experience these symptoms in your menstrual cycle.

### **Do Antidepressants Help?**

Antidepressants can help in cases of severe irritability, depression and anxiety that some women with PMS have. These medicines are usually taken every day.

### **Tips on Controlling PMS**

- Eat complex carbohydrates (such as whole grain breads, pasta and cereals), fibre and protein. Cut back on sugar and fat.
- Avoid salt for the last few days before your period to reduce bloating and fluid retention.
- Cut back on caffeine to feel less tense and irritable and to ease breast soreness.
- Try eating up to 6 small meals a day instead of 3 larger ones.
- Get aerobic exercise. Work up to 30 minutes, 4 to 6 times a week.
- Get plenty of sleep--about 8 hours a night.
- Keep to a regular schedule of meals, bedtime and exercise.
- Try to schedule stressful events for the week after your period.

Identifying this problem, sensitizing life partners and lifestyle changes and medications, can help woman to cope with the symptoms and make life comfortable for women as well as their family.

*Contributed by Dr N Suchitra, Consultant Gynecologist, Tiruchy.  
Source: August 2008 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## ABC of Dental Care

### Dental Problems

Dental problems can range from toothaches and tooth decay to cold sores, abscesses and dental phobias. Toothaches are a common dental problem, and can occur even if one is diligent about oral care. However, what seems like a toothache is often the symptom of another condition, trigeminal neuralgia.

### Cosmetic Dentistry

Cosmetic dentistry rectifies gummy smiles, seal gaps, fixes chips and cracks, correct rotations and replaces worn out and discoloured teeth.



### Teeth Whitening

Dental surveys show that 80% of the people prefer whiter teeth. The answer is teeth whitening through a simple and safe procedure called dental bleaching. Bleaching lightens and brightens the teeth. It works on stains and is gentle on the teeth. Coffee, tea, tobacco, red wine, antibiotics and age can stain teeth.

### Tooth Damage and Dental Emergencies

As we all know, toothaches and any type of oral injury can be extremely painful and should be seen by a dentist immediately. These emergencies include broken teeth, teeth that have been knocked out, or teeth that have been forced out of the socket. In some emergencies, the cheeks, lips, or gums near the uprooted teeth, will have cuts or abrasions. If a tooth has been recently knocked out, the first thing to do is to look for that tooth. When the tooth is found, it should be gently scrubbed to get rid of any dirt or debris. Once it is cleaned, it should be placed back in the mouth between the cheek and the gums.

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**Common Causes of Tooth Decay and Infection - Dental Care and Hygiene**

Sometimes food particles get lodged between the teeth. These residual food particles in the mouth breed bacteria. These bacteria can cause infection and tooth decay. Proper oral hygiene can minimise tooth decay and infection. Some methods for effective daily dental care are as follows:

Brush your teeth every day. Brushing removes the residual food particles and plaque. The tooth is embedded in the jaw. (The visible portion of the tooth is called the crown and the hidden, embedded part of the tooth is called the root.) Remember to use a good quality tooth brush and tooth paste.

Flossing should be done every day. Flossing helps remove residual food particles and plaque that the tooth brush fails to remove. A simple practice of rinsing the mouth with water after every meal can be effective in protecting the teeth from infection and decay. Fluorides are useful to prevent tooth decay or caries. It is good to use a tooth paste with the correct amount of fluoride in it.

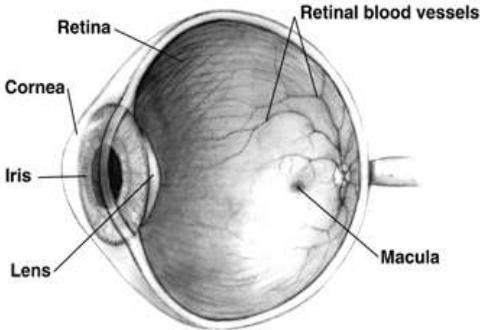
Article by Dr *Chandra Gupta*. *Dentist*  
Source: *September 2008 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Macular hole

### What is a Macular Hole?

A macular hole is a small break in the macula, located in the center of the eye's light-sensitive tissue called the retina. The macula provides the sharp, central vision we need for reading, driving, and seeing fine detail.



**Why does it occur, at what age and in how many percent of patients is it noted?**

Most of the eye's interior is filled with vitreous, a gel-like substance that fills about 80 percent of the eye and helps it maintain a round shape. The vitreous contains millions of fine fibers that are attached to the surface of the retina. As we age, the vitreous slowly shrinks and pulls away from the retinal surface. Natural fluids fill the area where the vitreous has contracted. This is normal. In most cases, there are no adverse effects.

However, if the vitreous is firmly attached to the retina when it pulls away, it can tear the retina and create a macular hole. Also, once the vitreous has pulled away from the surface of the retina, some of the fibers can remain on the retinal surface and can contract. This increases tension on the retina and can lead to a macular hole. It is generally seen in older age group above 60 years of age. But sometimes and quite rarely, it may occur in younger people also. Some people with high myopia (minus powered spectacles) may develop it at younger age. Sometimes it occurs due to some blunt injury to the eye.

Macular hole can occur in approximately 0.17 to 3.3 % of people among the general population.

**What are the Symptoms of a Macular Hole?**

Initially it causes distortion of central vision. Straight lines may appear crooked. Later on central vision reduces making reading and writing difficult.

**How is Surgery Done?**

Macular hole requires surgery. In this surgical procedure – called a **vitrectom** – the vitreous gel is removed. A fine membrane on the surface of the retina surrounding the hole, called internal limiting membrane, is peeled off to prevent it from pulling on the retina. The eye is filled with a bubble containing a mixture of air and gas. The bubble acts as an internal, temporary bandage that holds the edge of the macular hole in place as it heals. It is gradually reabsorbed and the eye is filled with natural fluids. Surgery is performed under local anesthesia.

Following surgery, patients must remain in a face-down position, normally for two weeks. This position allows the bubble to press against the macula. Maintaining a face-down position is crucial to the success of the surgery. Because this position can be difficult for many people, it is important to discuss this with your doctor before surgery.

**What is the Risk of Developing a Macular Hole in the Other Eye?**

There is a 10-15 % risk of developing a macular hole in the other eye. However, there are no preventive measures available as yet.

*By K. Srinivasan, Editor in Chief  
with inputs from Dr Dhanashree Ratra, MS, DNB, FRCSEd,  
Senior Consultant, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai  
Source: February 2009 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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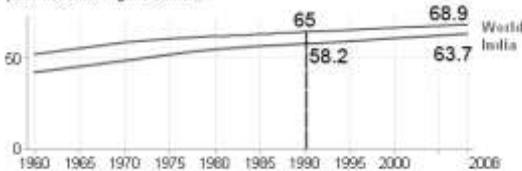
## Life Expectancy Has Gone up; The Present Generation May Spend More Years Sick

According to World Bank report, Life expectancy has gone up from 58.2 to 63.7 years in India. Though apparently, it gives an impression of longevity of life, in reality, the people beyond 50 get extension of life, due to various medical support and due to their healthy life-style and scientific food habit in their growing days.

Presently doctors say that the traditional old age diseases like hyper tension,

### Life expectancy

The average number of years a newborn is expected to live with current mortality patterns remaining the same.



Data source: World Bank, World Development Indicators - Last updated December 22, 2010

cardiac problems, cancer, diabetes, obesity, stress are now attacking the younger generation even at thirties and forties. This is mainly due to wrong food habits, lack of physical exercise,

mental tension due to deadlines, negative thoughts, unhealthy life style, etc. Even if the life expectancy is growing, in future, it is feared that people may spend more years being sick compared to our earlier generation. In the past two decades, people have started spending their life with serious illness and lack of functional mobility.

We need to create an environment where people die without experiencing disease, functioning loss and disability.

*Source: December 2010 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## 2500 People Die Every Day Due to Tobacco Use in India - Tobacco and Alcohol – a Deadly Combination

As per the latest study, there are 94 million smokers in India. Of these, about 14 million are ill with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). It is the fourth leading cause of adult deaths in India and it has been found to be mostly caused by smoking. In India, about 2500 people die every day from tobacco use, and about 5500 youth start this habit of using tobacco daily. Smoking of Bidis and Cigars cause early death. Tobacco and Alcohol is a deadly combination.



Why do people smoke? Apart from flavour, stress, pleasure, boredom, friendship and taste, there is really one reason for smoking — the rising tide of anxieties. Unfortunately, when the iconic film celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, Rajinikanth

and Aishwarya Rai smoke in films, they influence many youngsters to take up smoking.

Statistics show that every year, 800,000 new cancer cases are registered — 320,000 of whom suffer from head and neck cancers largely attributed to tobacco habits. While tobacco claims about 4.9 million deaths annually globally, an alarming one million of them are from India. Smoking can cause cancer (lung, mouth, kidney, pancreas and many more to name a few), heart disease, respiratory illnesses and severe dysmenorrhea. Smoking can also cause impotence, ulcers and fertility problems and it does not just harm smokers but the people around also get affected. A passive smoker most likely suffers from lung cancer, glue ear and asthma in children.

A pregnant woman who smokes unintentionally passes harmful chemicals to the unborn child and increases the risk of a miscarriage or neonatal death of the baby.

*Input from Dr Chandra Gupta*

*Source: August 2012 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Generic Medicines

Generic medicines are the unbranded bio-equivalent form of drug which is commensurate with branded drugs in terms of their therapeutic value. They are those medicines that are available after the expiry of the patent protection granted to the original researcher of the drug.

Although they are an equivalent substitute to their branded counterparts in all aspects, generic drugs are typically found substantially cheaper than the latter. It is estimated that one could save two-thirds of the cost of the branded drug if one opted for generic drug.

Despite its undeniable potential to reduce the cost of healthcare exponentially, most of the people in India are ignorant about its availability as an option. Some people even suspect the genuineness in the quality of generic medicine because it is inexpensive. Thus, people end up buying branded drugs without realising that they could obtain the same type of medicine for a lower price.

### **The Influence of *Satyamev Jayete***

Generic medicine first caught the attention of the general public of India when this subject was covered in Aamir Khan's TV programme, '*Satyamev Jayate*' (Truth Triumphs), aired on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The episode created large scale awareness about generic medicines among the common people. The manipulative methods of the medical mafia were also revealed to the people. This created a questionable impression about the reputation of Indian doctors in general. A cluster of 21 medical institutions, including the Indian Medical Association (IMA) demanded an unconditional apology from Aamir Khan for 'defamation' of the Indian doctors.

### **Availability of Generic Medicine**

Unfortunately, generic medicines are rarely found in general medical outlets. Most of the medical outlets are inclined to sell branded medicines instead of generic medicines. The main reason for this is that people tend to have a pre-conceived notion that branded medicines are better than generic medicines. Besides, branded drugs tend to offer higher margins in prices for the pharmacists, while generic medicines are capped in their prices. Till

date, the information about the availability of generic medicines is suppressed so that many people are unaware of its availability in the market.

### ***Jan Aushadhi***

*Jan Aushadhi* programme was launched by the Government of India in the year 2008, to provide safe and effective generic drugs at affordable prices. However, *Jan Aushadhi* has so far met with little success.

As of May 2016, there are 261 stores operational in India, predominantly in the northern parts of the country. A total of 615 different generic medicines have been identified. More details can be obtained from the official website: <http://janaushadhi.gov.in/>

An announcement was made by the Government of India a day after the Union Budget 2016 that it planned to open 3,000 *Jan Aushadhi* stores throughout the country during 2016-2017. Many experts including doctors are sceptical about this model, claiming that the government needed to build trust among the people about generic medicines. Besides, there is still no tested mechanism in place to ensure these medicines are time- and laboratory tested.

**Jan Aushadhi Stores**  
Same medicines at higher prices? Or Same medicines at lesser prices?  
**Daam kam, Dawai Uttam**

Advertisement Model is a form of medical advertisement by the Central Government to offer quality medicines at lesser prices.

Jan Aushadhi stores have been opened in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. More launches planned to spread widely.

Medicine Name	Brand	Price	Jan Aushadhi Price	Percentage Saving
Aspirin	50mg	10	5	50%
Paracetamol	500mg	10	5	50%
Metformin	500mg	10	5	50%
Clonidine	0.1mg	10	5	50%
Hydrochlorothiazide	50mg	10	5	50%
Amoxicillin	500mg	10	5	50%
Chloramphenicol	500mg	10	5	50%
Vancomycin	500mg	10	5	50%
Clotrimazole	100mg	10	5	50%
Fluconazole	150mg	10	5	50%

For details, please contact Jan Aushadhi Toll-Free Helpline No. 1800 180 1800  
National Consumer Helpline No. 1800-11-4000 (Toll-Free)  
For more information, please visit [janaushadhi.gov.in](http://janaushadhi.gov.in) or call 1800-11-4000 (Toll-Free)  
\*P.M. will be 03:00 am - 06:00 pm (IST)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India  
Department of Pharmaceuticals  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India  
Department of Consumer Affairs

### **Root Cause Analysis**

In countries like USA and UK, 70% of the doctor's prescriptions are for generic medicine. This is due to an active governing body, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in place in the country to regulate the safety of the medicines.

In India, despite a directive from the Medical Council of India (MCI) to prescribe generic drugs, doctors are reluctant to prescribe generic medicines, claiming they were not as effective as their branded equivalents.

98% of doctors' prescriptions are for branded medicines and the people are forced to buy the brand suggested by the doctor. This escalates the overall healthcare cost of the country.

### **Alternative to Generic Medicine**

Generic medicines have a long way to go before catching up in India but there is an alternative available for buying medicines at competitive prices. Since branding is a subjective term and every company has a different way of branding their medicines, there is a big difference in the pricing among the brands.

Thanks to the power of the internet, there are many websites which provide the generic medicinal equivalent to the prescribed branded medicine. They also list out all the branded medicines available in the market. One such project which is currently the most reputable one is an initiative by the late Dr M.M. Mittal (<http://www.medguideindia.com>). People can search for the brand of medicine that is priced to suit their budget and their availability, and buy these drugs from wholesalers or large pharmacy shops where the chances of obtaining these specific medicines are better. There are now many pharmacies available online, offering wider choices in the brands and generic to help the people to choose from.

*By Sukruti Vadula Narayanan, Editorial Team*

*With input from Vivek Hari Narayanan*

*Source : May 2016 issue of Ezine PreSense*

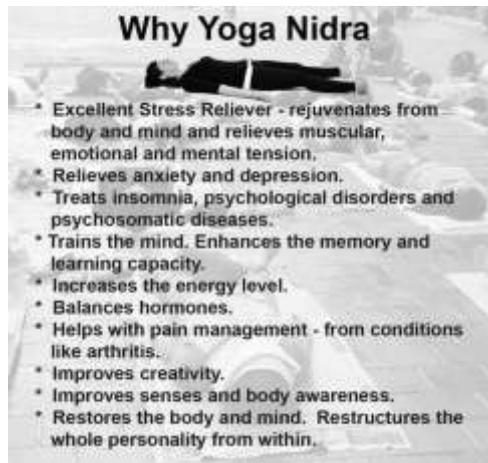
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## ***Yoga Nidra*, a Powerful Tool for Body-Mind Relaxation**

### **Body-Mind Relaxation**

With changes in life style and pace of modern life, many people today, including youngsters, suffer from diabetes, hypertension, migraine, asthma, ulcer, digestive disorders and skin diseases mainly because of tensions in the body and mind. Even cancer and heart diseases stem from tension. Although modern medicine has tackled these problems in many ways, it is unable to resolve the problems completely. The real problem does not lie in the body, but in the 'mind'. Yoga and meditation provide ways to relax the body and the mind.

*Yoga Nidra* is an ancient but little-known yogic practice that is becoming increasingly popular globally, as a form of meditation and mind-body therapy. *Yoga Nidra* is a systematic form of guided relaxation that is done for 35 to 40 minutes at one time.



Normally, we consider 'sleep' or reclining on an easy chair, taking tea or a drink, and watching television as relaxation. Scientifically, they are not relaxation and they are only sensory diversions. For absolute relaxation, one must remain in a state of awakesness and awareness. *Yoga Nidra* is a state of dynamic sleep. *Yoga Nidra* is a systematic method of inducing complete physical, mental and emotional relaxation. Researchers have proved that those who adopt this technique in their daily routine experience profound positive changes in their sleeping habits and their health.

### **State between Sleep and Wakefulness**

Through a guided session of *Yoga Nidra*, a person can be taken to the state between sleep and wakefulness. In this threshold state, contact with the

subconscious and unconscious dimensions occurs spontaneously. In this state where a person is neither in deep sleep nor completely awake, whatever impressions are made in the mind at that time become powerful, and they stay imprinted there. Experiments have proved that knowledge given in this stage is well received by the person. In the ancient times, *Rishis* have imparted knowledge through this technique.

Patanjali describes this state of consciousness as '*pratyahara*', where the mind and mental awareness are dissociated from the sensory channels. *Yoga Nidra* is one aspect of *pratyahara*, which leads to a higher state of concentration and *samadhi*.

### **Yoga Nidra and Meditation**

*Yoga Nidra* takes a person to a 'hypnagogic' state, that is between wakefulness and sleep. In this state, the mind is highly receptive. In meditation, one remains in the waking state of consciousness and gently focusses the mind, while allowing thought patterns, emotions, sensations and images to rise and go.

### **Benefits of Yoga Nidra**

Swami Satyanada Saraswathi, Founder of Bihar School of Yoga, and who has done an extensive study on *Yoga Nidra* and authored a book on *Yoga Nidra*, says in his book, "The mind is something like a motor car. If you do not handle it properly, you will meet with an accident. But if you are a good driver you know how to manage, whether you are driving a motor car or a truck. Now in *Yoga Nidra*, sometimes, you can go very deep. Although this practice is presently only intended to offer relaxation, its ultimate purpose is take you deep into the state where you are completely united with your inner being".

*Yoga Nidra* is becoming increasingly popular in the United State of America. "After I started on *Yoga Nidra* guided meditation, I felt a lot of change in the



quality of my sleep, my emotional state and my level of clarity. *Yoga Nidra* prepares you to unwind by detaching your mind from repetitive thinking, thereby releasing

emotional conflicts, hidden fears and anxious thoughts. When I deal with clients having problems with insomnia and acute anxiety issues in my coaching sessions, I strongly advise practising *Yoga Nidra* in their daily routine. The results of this practice are way more effective than any medicinal support available”, says Simi Arora, Life Coach from New York in an exclusive interview with PreSense.

She also adds, “I personally have met several Americans who use meditation very frequently in their life to help them deal with anxiety issues and also help them unwind from daily life pressures. One of my clients who practised *Yoga Nidra* got such profound results that it actually healed his insomnia completely. Even in other parts of the western world, it is embraced by many people to help them alleviate the symptoms of stress and insomnia. Even though the science of meditation was cultivated in the eastern world, it is no longer confined to that region.”

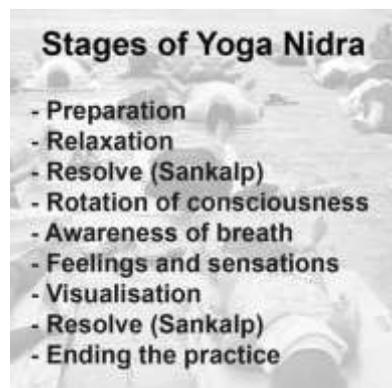
Dr A.V. Srinivasan, internationally renowned neurologist and former president of ‘Indian Academy of Neurologists’ also agrees that meditation and *Yoga Nidra* help to reduce depression, anxiety, stress, tension and blood pressure.

Various studies indicate that *Yoga Nidra* could help soldiers and veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### How to Practise?

*Yoga Nidra* is very easy to practise. Unlike meditation, which is done in a sitting posture, *Yoga Nidra* is done in ‘*Savasana*’ (lying down posture). Many creative thoughts have come out in this hypnagogic state.

As already discussed, the mind accepts any suggestion during the hypnagogic state, which is the state between wakefulness and sleep. Any resolution or *Sankalpa* suggested during that state will be powerful enough to transform the personality and direction in life.



*Yoga Nidra* can be practised after regular walking, yoga or exercises. One should practise it on an empty stomach or two hours after food. During the *Yoga Nidra* practice, one should ensure that nobody disturbs them by making noise or touching his/her body.

There are several guided *Yoga Nidra* sessions available on YouTube. PreSense suggests that interested readers download the audio guidance by Swami Niranjananda Saraswathi, the Head of Bihar School of Yoga. He is a born Yogi and has done extensive research on this subject. He was awarded the 'Padma Bhushan' in 2017 by the Government of India for his excellent contribution towards Yoga.

Readers may download the video/audio of guided *Yoga Nidra* from the following links.

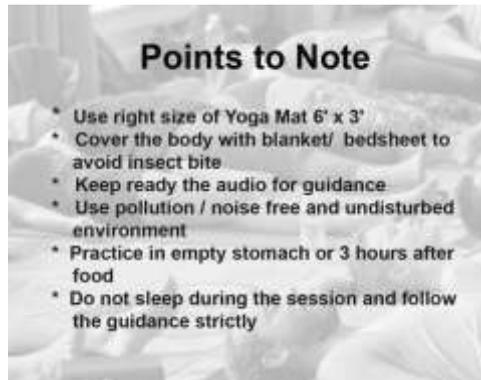
For beginners: <https://youtu.be/iXbFQYzsAos>

For second level practitioners: <https://youtu.be/WN6q9xQHojl>

Alternatively, the readers may download both the audios from our Google drive link:

<https://goo.gl/kS6vHD>

Suggested book for reading:  
*Yoga Nidra* by Swami Satyananda Saraswati  
(available in Amazon and Flipkart)



(Note: *Yoga Nidra* is a very simple technique. Any person of the age of 15 years and above, with normal health can practise independently, with the help of audio guidance. However, people with any chronic health issues may consult their family doctor beforehand, and begin the practice with the help of a trained Yoga Teacher.)

By K. Srinivasan, Publisher & Managing Editor

With input from Shri Suresh Veera, Senior Yoga Teacher, Chennai

Source : December 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense

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## Siddha System of Medicine – Its Potential and Its Challenges

### Outbreak of Dengue and Siddha Medicine



The recent outbreak of the Dengue Fever in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu has once again brought '*Nilavembu Kashayam*', to centre-stage. *Nilavembu Kashayam* is a Siddha medicine made out of nine herbs. This medicine is used both for the prevention and the cure of Dengue, Spine Flu and

Chikunguniya Fevers. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been distributing this medicine in all public places and it also promotes it through the media. In spite of the assurances given by the National Institute of Siddha (NIS) and the Central Council of Research for Siddha (CCRS), a controversy was raised by the comments of some celebrities like actor, Kamal Hassan, and part of the media about the 'scientific validation' of this *Kashayam* (herbal extraction). In spite of this challenge, the Government went ahead with its distribution, as there was no alternative treatment in allopathic medicine. Earlier in 2015, when Chennai suffered heavy floods, the timely administration of *Nilavembu Kashayam* helped prevent an epidemic, saving thousands of lives. Some of the other states in India have started showing interest in the administration of *Nilavembu* for treatment of these diseases.

The *PreSense* Editorial Team initiated a study to understand the uniqueness and challenges faced by the practitioners of the Siddha medicine system. The Team interacted with several practitioners and Siddha promoters, and also visited institutions to obtain a first-hand impression.

### Siddha System of Medicine

Among the traditional systems of medicine in the world, India's Ayurveda and Siddha are said to be very ancient. Although both the systems of medicine are very similar in practice, Ayurveda is essentially written in Sanskrit, and Siddha is worded in Tamil.

*Siddhas* were the spiritual scientists of ancient India and they laid the foundation for this system of medicine. They possessed tremendous

intellectual powers and they lived much longer, sustaining their bodies. They had in-depth knowledge about body and soul. They had expertise in how to use herbs, minerals, metals, poisonous drugs, etc. as medication for treating ailments. By controlling yogic power, they acquired super natural powers. The Siddha system of medicine is stated to be more than 5,000 years old thus proving its efficacy.

Agasthiyar, Bhogar, Theraiyar, Thirumoolar and their disciples were the main *Siddhas* who wrote several hymns in poetic form, on various aspects of the medical system. According to experts, around 100,000 available poems have been published. In these poems, they discuss the anatomy of the body, the pathology, the physiology, the pharmacology and about preventive medicines. Thousands of years ago, *Siddhas* had classified the system into various sections – what the modern system of medicine did 150 years ago. From the available scriptures, it is found that they have dealt with 4,448 diseases and suggested around 3 lakh (300,000) medicinal formulations.

Agasthiyar, in his book '*Garbha Soothram*', talks about the stages of growth of the child in the mother's womb, thus exhibiting his knowledge of the 'human anatomy' and 'embryology'. He has also written about various eye problems and solutions. The Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India maintains a 'Traditional Knowledge Digital Library' as a repository of all the formulations.

### **Diagnosis and Drugs**

The Siddha system follows eight steps in the diagnosis of any disease. They are *Nadi* (pulse), tongue, colour, voice, eyes, touch, stool and urine. The treatment in Siddha medicine is aimed at keeping the three 'Humours' viz. *Vatham*, *Pitham* and *Kapham* at the desired optimum level. The Siddha medicine system believes that diet and lifestyle together play a major role in maintaining health and in curing diseases.

There are 32 types of drugs in the form of powder, liquid, juice, etc for internal consumption. In the external therapy, they use treatment like fumigation, steaming, paste, massage, application of oil and fermentation.

They extract the ingredients from three sources viz. herbs, minerals & metals (iron, tin, mercury, copper, gold, etc.), and also animals.

### **Difference between Siddha and Modern Medicine (Allopathy)**

According to Dr Velayudham, a well-known Siddha Doctor and a Ph.D holder in Siddha Medicine, the medicine used in Allopathic treatment, attacks the virus of the disease, but may not be able to eradicate the virus fully. But in the Siddha system, the medicine develops immunity in the body itself to fight against the virus.

“Indian medicine is a way of life. The food itself is the medicine – what you eat, the time, and the quantity of the food. Food is supplemented by yoga. Indian medicine is more preventive in nature. Allopathy does not deal with the whole system but the specific condition. Allopathy is more about reaction. Indian medicine is pro-active.” Says Dr Santhosh Babu IAS, who was the Commissioner of Indian Medicine, Government of Tamil Nadu, and is a doctor in Modern Medicine. Dr Santhosh Babu wants yoga to be introduced at the elementary school level itself, to promote healthy life practices from a very young age.

“Indian medicine deals with the source of the disease and modern medicine focuses on symptoms” says Dr Anitha Balachander, a Molecular-Biologist and Director (Operations) of a leading Ayurveda drug manufacturer.

### **Current Status**

The Siddha system of medicine comes under the Ministry of AYUSH of the Government of India. Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, Member of Parliament, started a separate AIIMS-like Institute (the renowned All India Institute for Medical Sciences, New Delhi), for Siddha called ‘National Institute of Siddha’ (NIS) in 2005 when he was the Union Health Minister. He also started the Central Council of Research for Siddha (CCRS) to initiate research programmes on Siddha. There are nine educational institutions offering Undergraduate (UG), Post-Graduate (PG) and Doctorate (Ph.D) courses in Siddha. The Central Government had instructed every Primary Health Centre to have at least one AYUSH wing.

### **Challenges**

In spite of being a strong medical system, there is apprehension among the Siddha practitioners that there are vested interests who work on destroying the credibility of Indian systems of medicine. Even recently, the Indian

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his concern that during the pre-independence era, yoga and the Indian systems of medicine were ridiculed. Even now, attempts are being made by vested interests to destroy the faith that Indians have in the traditional medical system and treatment. The most recent occurrence of this threat was seen when the State Government promoted *Nilavembu Kashayam* to fight Dengue Fever. Several attempts were made, using celebrities, to discount the potential of Siddha medicine and dilute the faith of the people. Unfortunately, the Siddha practitioners do not have the muscle power and the money power to counter these threats and attempts. What they lack is a powerful lobby.

A misconception is being spread among the people that Indian medicines contain metals. "In the Indian system, minerals and metals are used in the permitted level. They improve the efficacy and bioavailability of the medicine. People need not have any fear, when they take medicine as prescribed by the doctor", says Dr Anitha Balachander.

There is a general feeling among all the Siddha professionals that the curriculum in the nine government and private educational institutions offering courses in Siddha Medicine, is not being updated regularly. Books published 60 years ago are still used in these institutions for study. In the past 60 years, many new palm leaves bearing ancient knowledge about Siddha medicine, have been discovered and published and they are not updated.

Around 5000 palm leaves, bearing approximately 5 lakh (500,000) hymns, are reported to be lying in various libraries, unexplored. They may contain valuable information on the Siddha system of medicine. Although all the Siddha drugs are being used and administered successfully for centuries, its scientific validation is not available to take it to the global level.

The Government of India started an exclusive Research Council called the Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) in 2005, similar to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). "Presently, 30 projects are under progress. We have completed a drug called D5 for Diabetes patients and it would be released to the public after approval from the Government" says Dr R S Ramaswamy, Director General of CCRS.

### **National Institute of Siddha (NIS)**

NIS was started in 2005 as an apex body, based in Chennai, to offer clinical services and research facilities. It has a 200-bed hospital attached to it. NIS offers PG and PhD courses in various branches of Siddha. Around 2500 patients visit the hospital daily as out-patients and to consult doctors. NIS provides treatment and medicine free for both the in-patients and the out-patients. During the visit, our Team was impressed with the cleanliness, maintenance, treatment and care in the hospital. PG and Research students gain good exposure while dealing with the patients. The clinical data, which is generated daily, can be an excellent document for any scientific validation. We are not sure if proper data base is maintained.



### **Moving to the Next Level**

Dr Anbumani Ramadoss (Former Union Health Minister) and Dr Santhosh Babu IAS, both agree that scientific validation is necessary, to take Siddha to the global level. The Government of India, NIS and CCRS should take initiatives to collaborate with international universities of repute. Your e-Magazine, *PreSense* has offered to actively support their efforts, through the network of the e-Magazine.

Digitising the remaining palm leaves immediately and publishing the text will facilitate in gaining more knowledge about the Siddha system of medicine. This can be done only by the Ministry of AYUSH and the State Government. "We are sitting on a gold mine, without knowing what it is", commented Dr Anbumani Ramadoss. The initiatives started by him should be aggressively pursued.

The curriculum should be updated with latest publications, to cater to modern requirements. The curriculum at present, does not provide them sufficient knowledge and insight to practise. Several students graduating from these colleges are jobless, and they are compelled to divert to the practice of allopathic medicine, for their livelihood.

The common man has faith in the Indian system of medicine. Vested interests aggressively create panic through misguided propaganda to dispel

the faith. The Government should counteract the campaign and provide sufficient support to the Indian system of medicine, which is safe and without side effects. In spite of all the counter campaigns, the Tamil Nadu Government recently went ahead with the official distribution of *Nilavembu Kashayam* to protect people from Dengue Fever, as there was no alternative in Modern medicine.

The Private Sector should start Corporate hospitals in Siddha medicine, to attract the middle and upper middle class of people. Just as Kerala uses Ayurveda for 'health tourism', the Government should promote 'health tourism' through the Siddha system of medicine too. It should be promoted through herbal parks, and Siddha clinics in 'Star Hotels'. Its packaging and marketing should be a professional exercise.

Although the Siddha system deserves palatial status, unfortunately, it 'resides' in a hut. The system deserves to be promoted to its rightful position in the zenith. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi observed, the nations that leave their heritage behind, are destined to lose their identity.

*By K. Srinivasan, Managing Editor, and Dr R Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor  
Source: October 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Dr Abdul Kalam on Health Care



On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the nation celebrated the 86th birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. As a tribute to him, I would like to republish an exclusive message recorded by me on the "Three-Dimensional Health Care Approach for Youth". This message was recorded on 7th October 2009.

We have heard Dr Kalam speaking on the topic of economics, about India Vision, etc. On our specific request that he speak about health care for youth, he gave a spontaneous four-minute message.

In this exclusive message, Dr Kalam suggested that one should spare one hour every day to maintain good health. He suggested a three-dimensional approach viz.

- (1) Fibrous vegetarian food
- (2) Physical exercise, including walking for one hour and
- (3) Meditation for 30 minutes.

He also mentioned in this message that he used to spend one hour in a daily walk, wherever he was. Till the time of his death, Dr Kalam maintained good health, and was very active.

This podcast was released in October 2009. Please listen to this informative podcast. Since this is an important healthcare-related message, please share this podcast with your contacts.

<https://youtu.be/VGKDKEWpptw>

*By K. Srinivasan, Managing Editor*  
*Source: October 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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## Walking is the Best Medicine – Benefits of Barefoot and 8-Shaped Walking

In October 2009, in an exclusive interview for PreSense, the former President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam suggested a three-dimensional approach for health care viz. 1) a one-hour walk, 2) fibrous vegetarian food and 3) meditation. His interview was republished in the October 2017 issue of PreSense.



The Siddha and Ayurveda systems emphasise the importance of walking. Dr D. Velayudham, a well-known Siddha practitioner and Secretary General of Indian Siddha Medical Association (ISMA) says that even 5000 years ago, *Siddhas* (ascetics) recommended a ‘mild walk’ (சூறு நடனம் in Tamil) after a meal. “Though modern science may suggest any walk only on an empty stomach or two hours after a meal, I am confident that this will also be accepted in future just as many other traditional practices of Indian medicine have been accepted by modern science, after initial reluctance and rejection”, Dr Velayudham added.

Walking is a natural and automatic human function, from the time the toddler instinctively straightens himself up from all fours, to wobble his way towards steady footsteps. Walking is a way of life. However, the modern man seems to walk less than he should, with transport vehicles, elevators, escalators, walkalators and upright mobility scooters taking over the role of the human legs and feet, for mobility. What was excitement for the toddler and his family, becomes a mundane activity that modern grown-ups do less of.

According to Dr M. Arul, Chairman of the ARMA Medical Foundation, Chennai, walking can be broadly classified for two purposes viz. 1) general fitness and preventive healthcare, and 2) therapeutic purpose to address specific problems like obesity, high blood pressure, cardiac issues, diabetes, etc. Hippocrates, the Greek physician and “Father of Medicine” seemed to know this when he said 2400 years ago, “Walking is man’s best medicine”.

If one intends to start walking for therapeutic reasons, one needs to consult the physician before doing so. Dr Arul adds that the benefits of physical activity depend on three elements: intensity, duration, and frequency of the exercise. A morning walk on an empty stomach will address hypertension and risks of heart attack and stroke, because walking strengthens the heart and improves cardiovascular health. It also burns fat. A minimum of 20 minutes of walk every day is essential for an average adult. Before the walk, it is advisable to visit the washroom to clear one's system, and avoid any toxin getting accumulated during the walk. It is preferable to drink sufficient water to avoid dehydration.

Dr Arul says, "Generally, the pulse rate is around 72 bpm (beats per minute) for any normal person in normal conditions. It is likely to increase during walking. The walker should walk at a comfortable pace. He should ensure that he maintains the pulse rate well below 120 bpm to avoid any problems". He also observed that the difference between natural walking and treadmill walking is that in natural walking, the body is in motion on stationary ground, whereas on a treadmill, the ground is in motion and the



body is stationed. He fears that with treadmill walking, there is the risk of the development of arthritis in the long run.

It is preferable to walk in an open space like a park or even inside the house with proper ventilation. After a

regular walk in the forward direction, 'walking backwards' for about 50-100 steps is recommended. Walking backwards, also known as 'retro-walk' helps in the use of the muscles and movements that are otherwise rarely used.

### Barefoot Walking

Energy which is a vital life force, flows in the human body. In India, this energy is called '*prana*' and in China it is called '*chi*'. Death occurs when *prana* or *chi* ceases in the body. This vital energy runs through a meridian

system, similar to blood vessels. The ends of these meridians are located in the feet. Barefoot walking stimulates and 'massages' these meridians and in turn, the organs, thus invigorating life's energy flow. This stimulation is especially effective if barefoot walking is done on uneven terrain because of the acupressure effect on the soles of the feet.



It was observed in a study published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society that senior adults who regularly walked on cobblestone terrain, displayed improved blood pressure readings when compared to those who walked on regular, flat surface. Their physical and mental health scores too showed improvement. Barefoot walking is as essential for health as the sun is for Vitamin D. Walking on cobblestones also gives the feet the opportunity to use the full set of muscles of the feet involved in walking, as they manoeuvre the uneven terrain, thus improving the health of the feet. (Diabetic patients are advised to consult their doctors before undertaking barefoot walking).

### **Grounding/Earthing**

When the feet are placed directly on the ground or on earth, it is called 'grounding' or 'earthing'. The earth contains abundant negative charge. This



electron-rich charge is believed to serve as a good source and supply of antioxidants and free-radical destroying electrons that are absorbable by the soles of the feet, from the ground. This conviction is expressed by Dr

James Oschman, a doctorate in biology from the University of Pittsburgh and an expert in the field of energy medicine, based on reports found in the literature and practices of different cultures across the world. Several studies conducted till date support the concept that grounding or earthing the human body, either by barefoot contact with the ground, or by sleeping on the ground, could be as essential an element for health as sunshine, clean air and water, good food and exercise.

It is interesting to note that what we wear on our feet while walking on the ground determines whether we stay grounded or not. Rubber and plastic soles insulate our body from the earth, just as they do with electric wires.

Leather-soles or barefoot on sand, grass, soil, concrete or ceramic tile, aid in being grounded and connected with the electrons of Mother Earth.

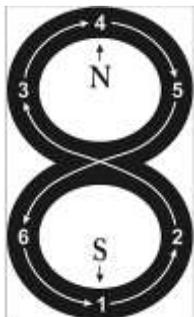
### 8 (Eight)-Shaped Walking

We know that in a motor driving test for issue of driving licence, the examiner expects the candidate driver to be able to manoeuvre the vehicle in an 8-shape. Driving in an 8-shape requires concentration and motor skills. The same logic applies in 8-shaped walking.

Dr A.V. Srinivasan, a well-known neurologist and President of the Indian Academy of Neurologists explains, "Ancient Siddha literature speaks about 8-shaped walking. This type of walking can help cure Arthritis, Blood pressure issues, Cardiac problems, and Diabetes, and Elevated cholesterol is brought to normal level. I call this the 'ABCDE' benefit. This type of walking also helps dyslexic children to improve concentration and motor co-ordination. These observations are based only on one's experience. Unfortunately, no scientific research has been done on 8-shaped walking to substantiate these statements". Siddha expert, Dr D. Velayudham also agrees that ancient *Siddhas* recognised the importance of 8-shaped walking. "The twists and turns in 8-shaped walking has health benefits to people of all age groups", he says. In the Western countries, it is known as 'infinity walking'.

### How to Practise 8-Shaped Walking

8-shaped walking can be practised anywhere. It can be practised in the house itself where proper ventilation is available. A space of 10 feet by 8 feet is required. Two chairs or two objects can be placed 5 feet apart, in a north-south direction. The walker starts walking from a southerly direction towards the north, beginning in the middle, between the 2 chairs and walking around the chairs in a figure-8 pattern.



A 20-30 minutes' walk at a comfortable pace provides optimum results. For a 30-minute walk, the direction of the walk should be changed after 15 minutes. For example, if one starts the walk in a south-north direction, then after 15 minutes, one should reverse the direction to a north-south direction. It is advisable not

to be distracted as engaging in a personal or mobile conversation, during the walk. Siddha doctors recommend listening to soothing music or chanting of divine *mantras* for positive energy. Pregnant ladies and Cancer patients should avoid this type of walking.

According to various studies, regular walking provides 34 benefits to the human beings. Siddha experts say that 8-shaped walking gives four times more benefits than regular walking.

So, let us stay grounded and keep walking – in regular, retro and 8-shaped patterns, for wholesome health. Obviously, Charles Dickens, the great English author too knew what he was talking about when he said, “The sum of the whole is this: Walk and be happy; walk and be healthy. The best way to lengthen our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose”.

*(Disclaimer: The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is only to create awareness about 'walking'. Readers are advised to seek the advice of their physician or any other qualified health provider, based on medical condition.)*

*By K. Srinivasan, Publisher & Managing Editor, and  
Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief  
Source : November 2017 issue of Ezine PreSense*

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