



SPEAKS

Cover Stories 2022

**Compiled by
Priyadharshni Rahul
(Editor, PreSense)**

**Prime Point Foundation
Chennai**

Cover Stories 2022

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PreSense Speaks | Cover Stories 2022

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Introduction

Foreword From Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam For The First Edition PreSense100

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



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New Delhi-110011

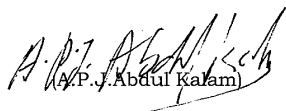
FOREWORD

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 100th Edition as a Collector's Digest.

28th May 2015


A.P.J. Abdul Kalam


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 th) Edition launched.
Feb 2011	Diamond Jubilee (60 th) Edition.

A hiatus after 5 years of uninterrupted journey

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.

PreSense Speaks | Cover Stories 2022

Jun 2013	Platinum Jubilee (75 th) Edition launched by the youth at three places simultaneously, across the nation.
Jun 2015	100 th 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.
Aug 2019	Fourth edition of Digest PreSense150 launched in pdf format.
May 2021	PreSense Speaks Series – First volume released on Communication (compilation of articles published earlier)
Sep 2021	Fifth edition of Digest PreSense175 in 6 volumes released.
Jul 2022	PreSense Speaks Series – Second volume released compiling the Editorials published between 2020 and 2022
Mar 2023	Two eBooks on Editorials and Cover Stories covering the articles published in 2022 released.

The Journey Continues.....

Editorial Team – March 2023

Publisher and Managing Editor	K. Srinivasan (Prime Point Srinivasan)
Consulting Editors	T N Ashok , Former Editor, Press Trust of India and freelance Journalist at Delhi C Badri , Former General Manager, Canara Bank and CVO, IOB, Chennai Ramesh Sundaram , Senior Journalist, Ex The Hindu
Editor	Priyadharshni Rahul , Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Delhi
Deputy Editor	V M Charumathy , Entrepreneur and AI expert, Chennai
Cartoon Editor	Triambak Sharma , Editor, Cartoon Watch, Raipur
Editorial Advisors	Dr R Jagannathan , Senior Academician Dr R Nurullah , Senior Journalist Dr. P Sudarsan , Associate Professor, IIT Madras Dr Ashok Pandey , Educationist at Delhi and Columnist
Technical Advisor	Srinivas Gopal



**PRIME POINT
Foundation**

Prime Point Foundation and its Initiatives

Prime Point Foundation, a Non-Profit Trust and NGO was founded in December 1999 by Shri K Srinivasan (popularly known as Prime Point Srinivasan), a former Senior Banker and a Digital Journalist and Communication Professional, to promote leadership and communication skills among the youth. Very eminent persons are associated with the Foundation.

In the past 23 years, the Foundation has organised several seminars, workshops, training and interactive sessions, both offline and online, on various subjects of national interest. The Foundation manages various online discussion groups and podcasts on communication, and digital journalism.

The Foundation has formed 5 initiatives to create awareness in various domains. All these initiatives are managed independently by passionate experts. These initiatives are non-commercial, and focussed on youth.

PreSense: The eMagazine PreSense was started in March 2006 on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to promote positive journalism. Till Feb 2023, the Foundation has published 192 editions. This is a digital-only magazine. Digests, containing select articles upto 150 editions of the



eMagazine, have so far been published. Dr Abdul Kalam has written the foreword for the Digest of articles up to 100 editions. PreSense publishes the cartoon character Prince, which was launched by Dr Abdul Kalam in 2008. PreSense has published a Digest of select articles published up to 175 editions in 8 volumes.

India Book of Records has recognised PreSense for publishing maximum number of digital only eMagazine since 2006 through voluntary efforts. .

Sansad Ratna Awards: This is a flagship initiative started in 2010 to honour top performing Parliamentarians every year, based on various performance parameters, and selected by a Jury Committee of eminent Parliamentarians. Dr Abdul Kalam himself inaugurated the first edition of the Awards event in May 2010. Till 2022, the Foundation has conducted 12 editions and presented 90 Awards. IIT Madras was the supporting Partner up to the 9th Edition. 10th Edition was held at Raj Bhavan, Tamil Nadu. 11th and 12th Editions was held at New Delhi.



India Bank of Records (IBR) has recognised Sansad Ratna Awards for maximum number of Parliamentary Awards (86) given and maximum number of award events (12) by the civil society based on the performance in consecutive years.

Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL) is an off-shoot of Sansad Ratna Awards. This is a registered NGO operating since 2018. NGPL has organised several workshops online and offline, for young political leaders and aspirants. Ministers, parliamentarians, legislators and retired constitutional authorities have participated and shared their views. NGPL will shortly be instituting Awards for young promising politicians.



Education Loan Task Force (ELTF) was started in 2010 to create awareness about education loans, among students and parents. More than 30,000 queries have been responded to, through email, and more than



5000 serious complaints have been taken up with the top management of the banks concerned, for redressal. Many policy issues have been taken up by Sansad Ratna Awardee MPs, in the Parliament for solution. ELTF does not facilitate loans.

Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI):



DiJAI is an independent NGO founded in 2017 to create awareness about digital journalism and its implications, among the public and particularly among the journalists. DiJAI conducts several online and offline workshops and seminars, with panels of domain experts.

Preface to the Sixth Edition of 'PreSense Speaks' series

On behalf of the Editorial Team of PreSense, we present the sixth edition of 'PreSense Speaks' Series, covering the Cover Stories published by us in 2022. The eMagazine PreSense was started in March 2006 on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, for positive journalism. In March 2023, PreSense completed 17 years. We have published 192 editions till Feb 2023.

As readers are aware, we have published digests of select articles up to 100, 110, 130. 150 and 175 editions. We had the unique privilege of carrying Foreword from Dr Abdul Kalam himself for the 100th edition.

The first edition of PreSense Speaks series was released by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Mos, Parliamentary Affairs in May 2021. The first edition was the compilation of articles on communication. The sixth edition of PreSense Speaks Series contains the Cover Stories published by us in 2022. We release this edition, coinciding with the 17th Anniversary of our eMagazine PreSense.

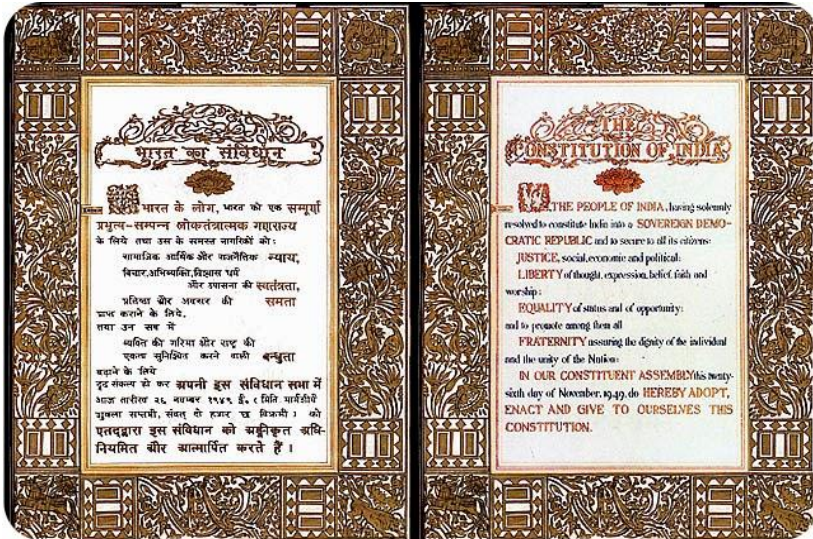
I thank all the Editorial Team members for the excellent support and cooperation provided by them for release of every issue of PreSense. I am confident that this edition will be useful for all our readers.

K. Srinivasan
(Prime Point Srinivasan)
Publisher and Managing Editor
PreSense
www.corpezine.com
25th March 2023

Cover Stories Published in PreSense during 2022

Making of Indian Constitution – Interesting Facts

By Prime Point Srinivasan, Mg. Editor (Jan 2022)



On 26th Jan 2022, India celebrated the 73rd Republic Day with pomp 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 members.

British Rule

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

rule even from the 18th 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 Govt. of India Act 1935 framed by the British Parliament governed Indians. (These Acts became irrelevant after Independence and the adoption of Indian Constitution)

Constituent Assembly Formed

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

On the inaugural 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 'Provisional Chairman' till the Chairman was elected.

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

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

India attained Independence on 15th August 1947 and the governance of India passed onto the Constituent Assembly India from the British Parliament. Lord Mountbatten was requested by the Constituent Assembly to continue as Governor General for some more time. Shri C. Rajagopalachari (popularly known as Rajaji) took over as the Governor General on 21st June 1948 and he continued till 26th Jan 1950. Rajaji became the first Indian Governor General of India. After 26th Jan 1950, the Governor General post was redefined as President of India. Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of India.

Framing Draft Constitution for India.

After the Indian Independence, the Constituent Assembly wanted to frame the Constitution for India. They constituted a 'Committee to draft the Constitution' on 29th August 1947 under the Chairmanship of Dr B. R. Ambedkar. Shri Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Shri K. M. Mushi, Shri Saiyid Mohd Saadulla, Shri B L Mitter and Shri D. P. Khaitan were included as other members of this Committee.



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

Discussion in the Constituent Assembly

The Constituent Assembly discussed this Draft Constitution in 114 sittings, spread over 2 years 11 months and 17 days thoroughly. The final Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949. This day is

also known as National Law Day. After Modi Government assumed power, this day is celebrated as 'Constitution Day'.

Constitution Document Signed

On 24th 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), illuminated by artists and one print copy of English version were signed by the members.



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

The original constitution is hand-written, with each page decorated by artists from Shantiniketan including Beohar Rammanohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose. Its calligrapher was Prem Behari Narain Raizada



Rajaji declaring India as a Republic

After putting their signatures, all the members including Dr. Rajendra Prasad (President of India Elect) and other members sang Vandemataram and Jana Gana Mana in chorus, symbolising a great

achievement of the Sovereign Independent Republic of India, after a struggle of nearly three centuries.

If you want to read the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly verbatim, please click the link

https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/official_sites/constituent.asp

This Constitution came into force on 26th Jan 1950. From that day, India is a Sovereign Independent Republic.

When the new Constitution was signed by the members on 24th Jan 1950, it was drizzling outside the Parliament at Delhi. It was considered by them as a good omen.

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

This cartoon was published by Hindustan Times on 24th January 1950, two days before the first Indian Republic Day. This cartoon was drawn by the popular cartoonist Enver Ahmed. In this cartoon, Mother India gives birth to a baby called 'The Republic of India' and the DOCTOR Ambedkar holds the baby in his hands and gives a gentle touch. Congress Party is depicted as Nurse. The people of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Vallabhai Patel are looking at the new born baby with great anxiety.

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 72 years, the Constitution has undergone 104 amendments.

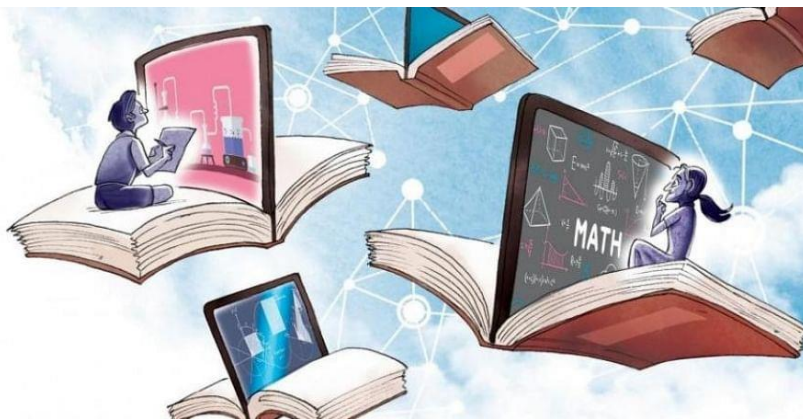
We are publishing the finer details for the benefit of all the youngsters. The freedom and sovereignty we enjoy did not come on a single day. Our elders have struggled and lost their lives in the freedom movement spread over nearly 300 years. The great visionary leaders have also provided us a great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



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

Research, Development and Innovation in India – A Quick Review

By Prof. Dr. R Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor (Feb 2022)



Picture courtesy: The New Indian Express

The power of any country is derived from how much edge any country has over others in terms of research in the areas of basic sciences (which provide a very strong foundation), technology (which proves superiority of a nation) and social welfare (which enhances the quality of living).

Research Publications

India's annual research publications of about 1.5 lakhs have got us 7th position globally and the countries ranking above us are: The United States, China, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and France. Hence, we are in a comfortable position on the basis of a number of research papers published annually. Hence the quantitative increase is good news but what matters more is the quality, measured by the number of times an article has been cited and referred to. India's impact was about 1%

only. Improving impact will require effort, including a focus on innovation. India needs to improve its Science and Engineering (S&E) capacities. Only 15.8 percent of the total publications produced by Indian researchers feature in the top 10 journals globally. As per Scimago Journal Rankings, India ranks fifth in global research publication output. But countries such as the US, China, Germany and the UK continue to dominate the world rankings both in terms of quantitative and qualitative research. Presently, sizeable numbers of research and technology institutions/universities are spread across the nation, which includes the Central/State government funded and self-financed institutions.

Indian Research: Quantity vs Quality

"Despite these huge investments, the quality of research and innovation (R&I) in India is not of current global standards. Moreover, none of these institutions are amongst the top 100 R&I institutions in the world. Also, the quality of the workforce produced by these institutions is not amongst the best in the world," the HRD Ministry's Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) report has said.

The quality of academic research produced by Indian scholars has become a subject of grave concern for the University Grants Commission (UGC), which had flagged the issue of increasing the number of students getting their research published in 'sub-standard journals'.

Despite an increase in publications, low citation impact as indicated by 'citations per document' implies that the quality of Indian research papers is not on par with that of other countries. The relative impact of citations for India is half of that of the world average. It underlined that the low research capacity is also getting reflected in the number of patent applications. India filed 56771 patent applications in 2020, while "China filed 1,497,159 applications in the same year.

Patent applications for the top 20 offices

Country	2020 Rank	2020 Patent applications	2019 Rank	2019 Patent applications	2018 Rank	2018 Patent applications
China	1	1,497,159	1	1,400,661	1	1,542,002
U.S.	2	597,172	2	621,453	2	597,141
Japan	3	288,472	3	307,969	3	313,567
South Korea	4	226,759	4	218,975	4	209,992
European Patent Office	5	180,346	5	181,479	5	174,397
Germany	6	62,105	6	67,434	6	67,898
India	7	56,771	7	53,627	7	50,055

Government of India's initiatives

Government of India has taken several initiatives to increase investment in R&D as well as to promote and improve the overall research eco-system in the country. These include

- i) the Uchchatar Anusandhan Yojna (UAY), which promotes industry-sponsored, result-oriented research.
- ii) Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) focuses on socially relevant research in higher educational institutions. The establishment of 9 research parks at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and one at the Indian Institutes of Science (IISc) is a good augury. These research parks will promote innovation through incubation and joint research between education and industry.
- iii) The Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) scheme encourages the brightest students to do research in the field of science and technology.
- iv) Atal Innovation Mission has also been brought by NITI Aayog.

Challenges in Improving Research Quality in India

As we all know that India is the youngest country in the world, there is a huge need for employment. Of course, if the research is not done in time in the industry and welfare sectors, India's demographic benefit will turn into a demographic curse. But at the same time it is necessary to pay attention to (i) our socio-economic status and (ii) development criteria as warranted by global competition. There should be public, private participation in funding quality research in higher education and research institutions. An environment is to be created, so that more and more competent graduates enrol in research programs. According to recent estimates, India accounted for a quarter of the 7.5 million

first university or bachelors' degrees in Science and Engineering. However, the transition to tertiary research continues to be low. In 2016, a total of 15,967 Science and Engineering doctoral degrees were awarded in India compared to 39,710 in the US (2015). Higher education policy must seek a higher transition rate from first university to doctoral degrees. At the same time, there is a need to step up research productivity and intensity. Increasing the avenues for Science and Engineering personnel to publish by creating more peer-reviewed outlets in English and in Indian languages is one option. Another area where institutions need to step up is an international collaboration. There must be a steady rise in this research capacity. For this India can try to spend more percentage of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on research, development and innovation.

Conclusion

India has about 20% world's population and most of which are youth in the productive age group. The Government of India has seized of this fact and the quality issues of Indian Research in institutions of higher learning in India. The Government has made certain vital modulations in the present National Education Policy. The Central Government is increasing the percentage of the GDP towards improving the research and also initiates policies to attract private funding towards our nation's research endeavours. These concrete steps initiated by our Central Government might improve the quality of Indian research in addressing the problems of our society, country specifically and humankind in general.

12th Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards 2022 – A Report

By Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor (March 2022)

12th Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards presentation ceremony was held on Saturday, 26th March 2022 at New Maharashtra Sadan, New Delhi. Shri Sushil Chandra, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble MoS Parliamentary Affairs and Chairman of Jury Committee presented the Awards. 9 Members of Parliament. 4 Standing Committee and 2 Veteran Leaders received the Awards.



These Awards are presented on behalf of the Civil Society. An eminent Jury Committee chaired by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal (Hon'ble MoS Parliamentary Affairs) and Shri T S Krishnamurthy (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India) selected the Awardees based on the performance data provided by PRS India, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites.

This initiative was started by Prime Point Foundation and eMagazine PreSense in 2009 on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to honour the top performing Parliamentarians. Till 2022, 92 Awards have been presented and all the Awardees have received the Awards in person.

Award Winners 2022



Please watch the Presentation Ceremony
<https://youtu.be/fcfvcvBd7MI>

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award 2022

(This category is introduced for the first time this year to honour the veteran leaders.) Dr M Veerappa Moily, Former Chief Minister of Karnataka and Former Union Minister received the Lifetime Achievement Award 2022.

Shri Sushil Chandra (Chief Election Commissioner of India), Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal (Hon'ble Mos Parliamentary Affairs) presented the Awards. Shri Hansraj Ahir, Former MoS Home Affairs and Patron of Sansad Ratna Awards Committee (first

from left) is looking on. Dr Veerappa Moily is a Senior leader of Indian National Congress.



Dr H V Hande (95), Former Health Minister of Tamil Nadu and six times Legislator could not be present during the event due to his age. On behalf of Dr Hande, the award was received by Shri Sridhar Raj, General Secretary of Sansad Ratna Awards Committee. On 28th March 2022, the Award was presented to Dr Hande at his

residence at Chennai by the office bearers of Sansad Ratna Committee in the presence of political leaders of different parties, including Shri K Annamalai, President of BJP Tamil Nadu. Dr Hande is a Senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Sansad Vishisht Ratna 2022

(For sustained continuing super performance after getting Sansad Maha Ratna and/or after becoming Jury Member – Special Award by the Chairman of the Sansad Ratna Committee)

Sansad Ratna 2022 (Individual Awards)

(Individual Awards for Lok Sabha are based on Questions raised, introduction of Private Members Bills and participation in Debates (only initiated debates are considered with self-efforts). For Rajya Sabha, their performance in 2021 on the same parameters were considered. For a retired Rajya Sabha Member, his overall performance in his full term is taken into account.)

Sansad Ratna 2022 (Departmentally Related Standing Committees)

16 Lok Sabha Committees and 8 Rajya Sabha Committees are functioning as Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). Each Committee has 30 Members (20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha), besides the Chairman, drawn from all the parties. The Members of the committees are appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha or the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The Committees of the concerned Ministries consider Demands for Grants before they are discussed and voted in the Parliament. They also examine the Bills referred to them. They can also take up any topic under the jurisdiction of the concerned Ministry and discuss. They present the reports to the Parliament. From 2018, Sansad Ratna Awards are presented to the Committees based on the sittings, reports presented.

Please listen to the inspiring speeches of Chief Guests

Shri Sushil Chandra, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India <https://youtu.be/EHBv5UJaVec>

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble MoS Parliamentary Affairs https://youtu.be/DWDI7Uf_oP4

“Always Focus on Your Work and not on the Outcome”- Supriya Sule MP – An Exclusive Interview

By Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor (April 2022)



Supriya Sule, a well-known Indian political leader is the daughter of Sharad Pawar, another senior Indian leader. She was a Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha between Sep 2006 and May 2009. Since 2009, she is a Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha and has served 15th and 16th Lok Sabha. Presently, she is the Member of the 17th Lok Sabha representing the

Nationalist Congress Party, elected from the Baramati (Maharashtra) Constituency.

She has been campaigning against female feticide for several years. She is one of the outstanding Indian Parliamentarians of the 15th, 16th and 17th Lok Sabha. She is also a Sansad Ratna, Sansad Maha Ratna and Sansad Vishisht Ratna Awardee instituted by Prime Point Foundation and PreSense. In an exclusive conversation Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor, PreSense had with Supriya Sule shares her experience. Excerpts:

Why did you choose this profession?

Being a representative of people, gives me a great opportunity to serve people and make a difference in their lives and provide them better living conditions.

Who is your role model and why?

Shri Yashwantrao Chavan and my parents; reason being hard work, visionary and taking success and failure in their stride.

Where do you gain strength and motivation from?

My family and all the self-help groups I work with.

What are the challenges you faced while growing professionally and how did you overcome them?

Myself being a full-time politician, it constantly provides me with multiple learning opportunities and avenues for personal growth like reading, empathetic listening, meeting people, introspecting my work, life, etc. etc.

Challenges are a part of life - it makes life more interesting. There is no perfect life, grass always appears greener on the other side but no one really knows what any other person goes through. One must have strong core values, focus and keep working towards your cause and do not worry and measure success. You can only control factors within your control like your own behaviour, words, intentions, desires, etc. Many factors like the outcome and end result are not in your control. Always focus on your work and not on the outcome. Never ever give up on what you like to do.

Is managing family commitments with work a tough challenge? Your insights to young working mothers?

We women are gifted with multitasking and are good managers. I believe in gender equality. I think every woman is a leader - she works 24x7 and delivers superior results.

How important is family support to one's growth and how did your family support you?

My family is my pillar of strength - they continue to contribute to my growth both professionally and personally.

Do you feel gender bias exists at work place? If yes, how did you handle it?

No. My male colleagues have been extremely supportive of me and fellow women MPs. I have lived in Mumbai, Pune and Baramati, which are all very cosmopolitan cities, which helped me a lot in my journey



Is the society prepared (after 75 years of independence) to see and accept women as leaders and achievers?

Yes absolutely. You can see this reflect in the Parliament itself where important Constitutional positions like President of India, Speaker of Lok Sabha are held by women. We also see many women CEOs, bankers, doctors, engineers, home makers, etc. It's amazing

What is your one achievement that you consider as the greatest and significant in your profession?

Under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, we managed to assist and help many people with physical aids and assisted living devices to senior citizens and differently abled. Actually, we topped the country in implementation, thanks to the team.

What according to you are the pre-requisites for a successful woman?

Hard work, open to new ideas, listen, read, willingness to serve people to best of one's ability, and willingness to stand up for peoples' development and wellbeing.

One lesson your experiences taught you?

Whether it is man or woman, patience should be kept in all up and downs we face in life. Patience teaches us how to overcome the toughest times we face.

Your advice to women who aspire to be in your place?

I have always supported women in politics and the NCP Yuvati wing has encouraged young women to join politics. I would like to give them the same advice my father has given me before I entered politics - people are supreme. They are the ones who have voted you to be their representative. So always remember to be humble and give priority to people and their issues.

Always treat people the way you would like to be treated. Respect and listen empathetically to others, value people and relationship/ Keep your mind always open, we all learn from many people everyday Leadership is about service to all your stake holders. Jai Hind

Ancient Indian Scriptures, the Forerunners for Modern Science

By Prof. Dr R. Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor (May 2022)

While addressing the students in February 2007, Dr. Abdul Kalam suggested to research ancient Sanskrit scriptures and unearth the treasure of knowledge. "Though I am not an expert in Sanskrit, I have many friends who are proficient in Sanskrit. Sanskrit is a beautiful language. It has enriched our society from time immemorial. Today many nations are trying to research Sanskrit writings which are there in our ancient scriptures. I understand that there is a wealth of knowledge available in Sanskrit which scientists and technologists are finding today," he said.

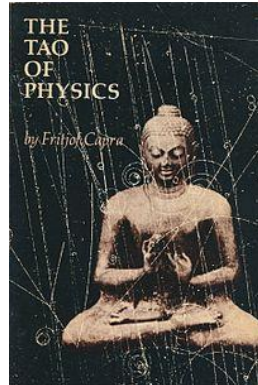
"There is a need to carry out research on our Vedas, particularly Atharvana Veda, for eliciting valuable information in science and technology relating to medicine, flight sciences, material sciences and many other related fields. Cryptology is another area where Sanskrit language is liberally used," he added.

Many of the foreign countries, including Germany and US are exploring the hidden treasures in our ancient scriptures. Unfortunately, the modern Indian education has not taught us to appreciate our own ancient Indian wisdom, while the international scientists have understood the value of ancient Indian knowledge.

Shiva statue at CERN

In 2004, a tall statue of the dancing Shiva was unveiled at CERN, the European Center for Research in Particle Physics in Geneva. Special plaque below the Shiva statue explains the significance of the metaphor of Shiva's cosmic dance with

quotations from Fritjof Capra, an internationally renowned 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 best seller "The Tao of Physics", first published in 1975 and is still in print with over 40 editions.

Max Muller on Vedas



When the phonograph was invented, it was presented before some eminent men of science and men of letters at London. d Max Muller, well known German Scholar and Writer was the first to be invited to utter something in the phonograph. Max Muller uttered 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. Max Muller explained that he recited the words

from the oldest hymn in the world, Rigveda. He further explained to the audience, "In ancient India, Vedas were passed on from one generation to the next generation orally for thousands of years, in a phonographic way. Each generation was 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".

Knowledge of planets

We always credit the great inventions and discoveries to the modern science. But many of these absolute fundamentals, right from the inceptions of our universe to present day scientific advancements were very well discussed in good depth and detail, thousands of years back itself, in our ancient India and they were all well documented also. But this supremely advanced ancient Indian science is never taught in our own schools. For example, in Ramayana and

Mahabharata, all important events are indicated in terms of the positions of planets like Sun, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, etc. Now, using the modern technology, our researchers are able to chronologically match the dates of all these events. This indicates the superior knowledge our ancient Indians had on space and astronomy.

Modern Science

The science that we built up during the last 300 years is called as modern science. Since 1700 onwards, the modern science is well defined, it came out of the previous shackles. This turning point accelerated the growth of science and the progress of the mankind was enormous. The comfortable digital world we are living in is the contribution of modern science.

Origin of Vedas

As Max Muller indicated, all the Vedas were passed on from one generation to the next generation orally. Vedas and Upanishads are estimated to be thousands of years old. Based on the astronomical planetary positions indicated in Ramayana and Mahabharata, it is estimated that Ramayana was around 7500 years old and Mahabharata is 4200 years old. It is so old that it is very difficult to exactly point out the origin of Vedas and other scriptures.

Age of the Universe

Our Universe was born out of a Big Bang explosion and out of nothing, and the time has started flowing from that instant onwards. Rigveda (10:129), explains the cosmos beginning from nothing through the power of heat.

Modern Science estimated the age of our Universe to be 13.77 billion years. But the same modern science estimates the age of a well-known subgiant star HD 140283 as 14.46 billion years! That might raise an eyebrow or two for all of us. But our Vedas say that our universe is about 155.52 trillion human years old, and its total life span is 311.04 trillion human years (which is equivalent to 100 years of Brahma). This prediction of the death of the universe after 311.04 trillion years, is advocated by the Oscillating Universe theory of modern science.

Law of Gravity

Way before Sir Isaac Newton explained gravity, ancient Indian scholars had already figured out how it worked. Rig Veda 10.22.14 states "This earth is devoid of hands and legs, yet it moves ahead. All the objects over the earth also move with it. It moves around the sun."

Speed of light

Sayana, a vedic scholar from the 14th century quoted from Vedas, "With deep respect, I bow to the sun, whose rays travel 2,202 Yojanas in half a Nimisha." Yojana and Nimisha are the ancient methods of measurement. This is equivalent to 185,794 miles per second or 2,99,000 kilometers per second. That is astonishingly close to the real 'scientifically-proven' figure of 3,00,000 kilometers per second.

Distance between Sun and Earth

Our ancient Indians knew the Distance Between Earth and Sun well before modern science calculated.

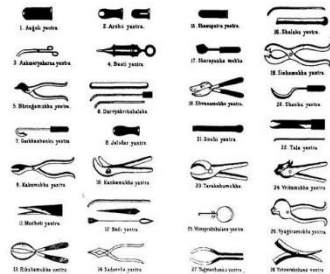
*"Yug sahasra yojana par bhanu, leelyo taahi madhura phal
jaanu"*

The word-to-word translation of the above sloka from Hanuman Chalisa reveals the distance that Hanuman travelled

(to reach the Sun), 1 Yuga = 12000 years. 1 Sahsra Yuga = 12000000 years. Also, 1 Yojana = 8 miles. Hence, "Yug Sahsra Yojana", the first 3 words mean $12000 \times 12000000 \times 8 = 96000000$ miles or 153,600,000 kilometers. Interestingly, the actual distance from earth to sun is 152,000,000 kms. Bafflingly, there's error of just around 1%.

Medicine

The First Ever Medical and Surgical Encyclopaedia was by Sushruta Samhita written during the 6th century BCE. The Sushruta Samhita contains 184 chapters with descriptions of 1,120 illnesses, 700 medicinal plants, 64 preparations from mineral sources and 57 preparations based on animal



sources. Its author Sushruta is also considered to be the first ever human to perform medical surgeries on humans. The book also has vast details on embryology, human anatomy, along with instructions for venesection, the positioning of the patient for each vein, and the protection of vital structures (marma). The oldest documented evidence (9000 years) for the drilling of human teeth of a living person was found in Mehrgarh along with the evidence of orthopaedic surgeries.

Indian Government and all Universities should ensure that the present generation is exposed to the great wisdom of our ancient Indians.

Source courtesy: www.mensxp.com

India Elects a New President

By Ramesh Sundaram, Editorial Advisor (June 2022)

Articles 52 to 62 of Indian Constitution defines the role of the President, election process, his/her functions and impeachment procedure. Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974 gives procedures for the election of President and Vice President.



Constitutional Provisions

The term of office of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, 14th President of India, is ending on 24th July 2022. As per Article 62 of the Constitution of India, an election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing President is required to be completed before the end of the term.

Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Presidential and Vice –Presidential Elections Act, 1952, and the Presidential and Vice – Presidential Elections Rules, 1974 empowers the Election Commission of India to conduct the elections for the posts of President and Vice President in a free and fair manner. The Election Commission of India, through their notification dated 9th June 2022, initiated the process for election of the President of India.

Indian political parties have already put up their candidates for this highest position of India. The ruling NDA has fielded Smt. Draupadi Murmu, a Tribal woman and former Governor of Jharkhand hailing from Odisha. The opposition parties have fielded Shri Yashwant Sinha, Former Union Minister hailing

from Bihar. The elections will be held on 18th July and the counting will be done on 21st July 2022.

Who is eligible?

List of Indian Presidents

No	Name of the President	Period
01	Dr Rajendra Prasad	1950-1962
02	Dr S Radhakrishnan	1962-1967
03	Dr Zakir Hussain	1967-1969
04	Shri V V Giri	1969-1974
05	Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	1974-1977
06	Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	1977-1982
07	Shri Zail Singh	1982-1987
08	Shri R Venkatraman	1987-1992
09	Dr Shankardayal Sharma	1992-1997
10	Dr K R Narayanan	1997-2002
11	Dr APJ Abdul Kalam	2002-2007
12	Smt. Pratibha Patil	2007-2012
13	Shri Pranab Mukherjee	2012-2017
14	Shri Ram Nath Kovind	2017-2022

Article 58 of the Indian Constitution defines the eligibility. The candidate should be a citizen of India with more than 35 years of age. He should have otherwise been eligible to become a Member of Lok Sabha. At the time of contesting for the election, he should not hold any office of profit

with either Central or Governments or local bodies.

Electoral College

As per the Article 54 of the Constitution of India, the President is elected by the members of the Electoral College consisting of: (I) elected members of both Houses of Parliament, and (II) elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all States including National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The members of Legislative Councils of various States and the nominated members of Parliament and State Assemblies are not eligible to vote.

Values of Votes

value of votes of the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies and both Houses of Parliament is governed by Article 55(2) of the Constitution. The total value of votes for

MLAs for 16th Presidential Election is 543231. The total value of votes for MPs is 543200. The total value of vote of electors for the Presidential Election, 2022 is 1086431.

Total Number of Electors	Total Value of Votes
MPs – 776	MPs – 5,43,200
MLAs – 4,033	States – 5,43,231
Total – 4,809	Total – 10,86,431

Depending on the population of each State, the value of each MLA is determined. It may differ from one State to other. For example, the value of each MLA in Uttar Pradesh is 208 and that of Uttarakhand is only sixty-four. Every elected MP of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha carries a vote value of 708.

Election system



**Presidential Candidates
2022: Smt. Draupadi Murmu
and Shri Yashwant Sinha**

Article 55 (3) of the Constitution provides that the election shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot. In this system, the elector has to mark preferences against the names of the candidates. The elector

can mark as many preferences as the number of candidates. While the marking of the first preference is compulsory for the ballot paper to be valid, other preferences are optional. For marking the vote, the Commission will supply particular pens.

The Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, appoints the Secretary General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by rotation, as the Returning Officer. Accordingly, the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha will be

appointed as the Returning Officer for the present Presidential Election 2022.

The candidates can file their nomination before the Returning Officer. The nomination has to be signed by a minimum of fifty proposers and fifty seconders, who are eligible to vote. An amount of Rs.15000/- has to be paid as deposit for filing nomination.

During the polling day, the MPs can vote in the Parliament House and the MLAs in their respective State capitals. Every voting centre will have one Asst. Returning Officer, who will conduct the elections.

The candidate who secures 50% of the value of votes will be declared as the Winner. In this case, the winner should obtain 5,43,216 votes.

Present status



Presidential Election 2017

At the time of release of this edition, two candidates viz. Smt. Draupadi Murmu (NDA) and Shri Yashwant Sinha (Opposition parties) are in the fray. Since NDA has majority votes, Smt. Draupadi Murmu is likely to be the 15th President of India.

India is the largest democracy in the world. If we look at the background of all the past Presidents, we can find that all of them have hailed from an ordinary family environment. Every Indian can feel proud of our democracy where even an ordinary person can become the first citizen of this great Nation.

Jai Hind.

National Cadet Corps (NCC) – Building character among the students silently

By Dr Ashok Pandey, Editorial Advisor (July 2022)

Sustainable Development Goals and Character Building

A remarkable event in the 70-year history of the United Nations (UN) occurred on September 25, 2015. In a historical adoption, 193 member states agreed on a common goal to transform planet earth and make it sustainable. The resolution identified 17 goals christened as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) premised on the 5 P's — people, planet, partnership, peace, and prosperity. What lies at the heart of SDGs is the acknowledgement that the whole planet and its inhabitants are one unit and the recognition that the globe's future depends upon how the 5 P's interplay with each other. Of these goals, quality education and lifelong learning (Goal 4) and decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) are critical instruments to achieving the other targets of Sustainable Development Goals, of which India is a signatory. Therefore, cognitive development, character building and skill development become critical instruments in raising competent citizens, robust human capital, and influential leaders to champion the cause of achieving a world where peace and harmony prevail over anything else. A generation imbued with character and discipline, accompanying sensitivity towards climate change, respect for diversity, actionable zeal for solid institutions, and collaboration can ensure that the world is an ideal place to live.

NEP 2020

The National Educational Policy 2020 raises the concerns of youth development, skill education, developing of an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. The policy states that the lofty goals enumerated above will require

the entire education system to be reconfigured to support and foster learning to achieve all the critical targets. The policy says, "We must consider the local and global needs of the country, and with a respect for and deference to its rich diversity and culture. Instilling knowledge of India and its varied social, cultural, and technological needs, its inimitable artistic, language, and knowledge traditions, and its strong ethics in India's young people are considered critical for purposes of national pride, self-confidence, self-knowledge, cooperation, and integration."

Origin of National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Character building and youth building have been integral to India's philosophy. Swami Vivekananda said, "Arise, Awake, and Stop not till the goal is achieved." In the aftermath of World War II, an idea to develop a scheme to train youth in discipline, the rigours of life, and community building was mooted. A committee headed by Pandit H.N. Kunzru recommended establishing a cadet organisation in schools and colleges across the country. Thus, on July 15, 1948, the National Cadet Corps came into existence with the acceptance of the NCC Act. In 1949, the girls' division was raised to give equal opportunity to girls. In 1950, the NCC got an inter-service image by adopting the Air-wing, followed by a Naval Wing in 1952. The NCC curriculum was expanded to include social service and community development in addition to small arms training, parade, and community development activities. Following the 1962 Sino-Indo war, the NCC training was compulsory in 1963. However, the Corps was again made voluntary in 1968. The NCC cadets showed exemplary commitment and professionalism in assisting ordnance factories, participating in patrol parties, and working hand in hand with civil defence authority, rescue workers and traffic control whenever such a need arose.

NCC – An overview



Contrary to common perception, NCC Cadets have no liability for active military service after completing their course. However, those who decide to accept a career in the Armed forces get preference depending upon their achievements in the Corps. The Ministry of Home Affairs also incentives NCC cadets in all central armed police forces. The Indian Maritime University has given 5 % weightage to 'C' certificate holders in the entrance examination for Marine courses conducted by IMU. There are other examples where 'C' certificate holders get preference in admission / recruitment.

The object of NCC is to develop character, comradeship, discipline, a secular outlook, and the spirit of adventure among the young citizens. The NCC values align well with the students' current cognitive and character development needs. Such a trained pool of motivated youth with leadership qualities can be effective in all occupations and serve the nation with pride and dignity.

The selection of the cadets in NCC is based on the interest and attitudes of a student. Their physical fitness, stamina, interest,

and skill count the most in their selection. Besides, interest in culture, teamwork, general awareness and current affairs are critical selection criteria for the student's enrolment into the NCC. A personal interview is also conducted to analyse the overall personality of the students. The NCC today functions with 17 directorates across the country, with a total of 14,09,571 cadets enrolled as of Dec 2021 and inspired by 'Hum Sab Bhartiya Hain', a musical composition of 7½ minutes duration.

The world is going under rapid change, and the pandemic was the inflexion point. Massive digitisation, technological advances, and artificial intelligence are changing the landscape of the future of work. But creativity, critical thinking, emotional management, and the ability to cope with adversities will always overwhelm the technical skills. Youth training through NCC, therefore, assumes vital significance in the Indian context. Skilling the youth through the NCC platform has many returns on investment. National and emotional integration, appreciation of India's culture and heritage, and constitutional values get amplified, and the youth as a unified community take the world's stage. The spectacle of the young boys and girls marching in unison on Raj Path on Republic Day fills the nation's heart with pride.



The NEP 2020 makes a strong pitch for the students to become aware of and understand global issues and become active promoters of peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure, and sustainable societies. The framework reiterates that respecting differences in everyday life and treating all equally with respect for diversity is the essence of good citizenship. The NCC prepares the students for these roles. The Hon'ble Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi, former Minister of External Affairs Mrs. (Late) Sushma Swaraj and Gen VK Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Civil Aviation, are among the proud alumni of NCC.

Looking forward

It is about time the government, policymakers, NEP implementation machinery, educationists and parents take a fresh look at NCC as a potent instrument to build character and leadership in the youth constituting more than half of India's population. To strengthen the spirit of NCC, the following recommendations are made based on field experience and interviews with educators and people engaged in the NCC movement.

- NCC is a youth-building movement. It should be an integral discipline and a core curriculum. So far, we have treated NCC as an extra-curriculum activity.
- University of Kalyani has taken the lead in introducing NCC as an elective subject at the undergraduate level. Col Hemant Kumar Jha, Commanding Officer 3 Bengal Girls Battalion NCC, who has been instrumental in developing the curriculum, says, "this paradigm shift will help NCC Cadets by obtaining academic credit in addition to 'B' & 'C' certificates." Other universities and autonomous colleges may emulate the practice.
- Language barriers must be addressed to encourage students from remote areas in the country. Instructors well-versed in the local languages can be effective in training and engaging cadets.
- Civil defence, disaster management, and community volunteering are life essentials. NCC cadets must make their presence visible and take pride in the contribution they make.

Both governmental and private organisations should come forward in recognising the training and skill of NCC Cadets and incentivize it in admissions/recruitments. Both the Central and State Governments are investing the nation's resources to build a better future for the youth and the country. The stakeholders must acknowledge the same and leverage the resources with responsibility, purpose and transparency.

The writer, an educationist, has served as an NCC officer during his stint as a faculty at Mayo College, Ajmer.

Role of Media in Indian Freedom Struggle

By Ramesh Sundaram, Consulting Editor (Aug 2022)

In the present days, within few seconds, information is passed on globally with technology and media tools. During the freedom struggle, such facilities were not available. Even the Radio was owned by the Government. In spite of all the constraints, the messages were distributed across the country with the support of various print media and films, braving the rules by the British regime.

It carried the fervor of patriotism and freedom to all the four corners of the country. A person in southernmost tip of India was able to know the thoughts of great leaders of the freedom movement in north India through the newspapers only. Ironically the English language was a uniting factor behind the people joining the freedom movement.

Regional and English Newspapers



An Irishman James Augustus Hickey started in Calcutta what is perceived as first Asian and Indian Newspaper in January 1780. He boldly exposed the misdeeds of East India Officials and was even jailed for it. Thus

Hicky's Gazette in tabloid form became the first English newspaper published in India to write against British tyranny. There were also three contemporary newspapers of that period namely Doorbeen, Samachar Sudhavarashan and Sultan-ul-Akbar that were suppressed for their anti-British stance. The English newspapers like Hindustan Times, The Times of India, The Statesman, The Hindu and The Indian Express carried the views of the leaders of Freedom movement leaders to all parts of the country. The regional language newspapers like Anand

Bazar Patrika, Mathrubhoomi, Dinamani, Swadesamitran also spread the freedom movement in their respective regions.

Gandhiji effectively used the newspapers like Navjivan and Young India to spread his messages on Indian freedom.

Nethaji Subhas Chandra Bose launched a radio in March 1942 named Azad Hind Radio (Freedom

for India) from Germany to enthuse Indian people to fight for their country's independence. In 1821 itself Raj Ram Mohan Roy used his newspaper Sambad Kaumudi to propagate socialist reforms and independence fervor. He is for all purposes founder of Indian nationalist press.

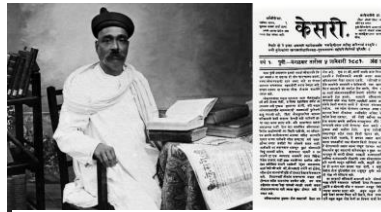


**Swadesa Mitran
Masthead**

G. Subramania Iyer founded the nationalist English newspaper The Hindu in 1878 to enthuse Indian populace to participate intensely in independence movement. He also founded *Swadesamitran* (meaning friend of self-rule) in Tamil language in 1891 to trigger national spirit among the Tamilians. The great nationalists like Mahakavi Bharathiar and VVS Iyer

were Editors and wrote many inspiring articles in the newspaper to kindle the freedom spirit among masses. Similarly Malayalam newspaper Mathrubhoomi started in March 1923 spread the message of nationalism in Kerala and south India. Ramnath Goenka started The Indian Express in 1936. He relentlessly and openly challenged the British rule through his paper. Jawaharlal Nehru founded the English newspaper National Herald and used it to propagate the Independence spirit.

Lokmanya Tilak founded two newspapers Kesari and Maharatta in English (both in January 1881) to spread dissent against British regime. Tilak always believed that journalism, when properly channeled, has the capacity to shape public resolve. He strongly criticized the negligence of Britain in tackling famine, drought, starvation deaths and epidemics like Plague which claimed many lives. He even conducted the Ganesh Chaturthi festival and Shivaji Maharaj festival and used them to arouse nationalism among people.



Lok Manya Tilak and his newspaper Kesari



The Svadesabhimani

A bold journalist Sishir Kumar Ghosh shook the foundation of British Empire in India through his newspaper Amrita Bazar Patrika. He actively campaigned against exploitation of the Indian peasants by forcing them to do Indigo cultivation. Malayalam

The Svadesabhimani was very critical of British rule in India. Its editor Ramakrishna Pillai wrote a number of articles in the newspaper supporting freedom struggle. The newspaper was confiscated and Ramakrishna Pillai was deported by British in 1910. Another prominent pro-independence leader Madan Mohan Malaviya started English daily The Leader along with Motilal Nehru. He published many of Mahatma Gandhi's works and he also set a benchmark for article writing in newspapers.

Role of radio in covering Indian freedom struggle:

Indian newspapers were gagged by stringent laws like Sedition



**Underground Radio Station set up
by Usha Mehta and others**

Laws, Rowlatt Act and Vernacular Press Act enforced by the British Government. To negate this in 1942, an underground radio station known as Congress Radio was started by Usha Mehta, Ram Manohar Lohia, Sucheta Kriplani and others to propagate independence movement with the tacit

blessings from Congress Party which was leading the freedom struggle. It broadcast news reports and talks by prominent leaders on need for India's independence. Many protests for the sake of Indian Independence were also broadcast to remote corners of the country. Usha Mehta thundered: "When newspapers and news were banned, our transmitter helps in great deal in spreading and sustaining the freedom spirit by conveying the public with facts of happenings." People gathered in large numbers around the radio to hear the broadcast even in rural areas that boldly broadcast against British rule and the plunder of Indian assets by the British Raj.

Role of Entertainment Media (films) in freedom struggle

In 1921, Bhakt Vidur, a silent movie was banned by British for displaying Indian topi (cap) and Chakra. Many films produced and released during the freedom struggle explicitly carried nationalist sentiments. Hindi films like Apna Ghar, Naya Tarana, Amar Joti, had lyrics that supported independence movement but escaped censor as British did not know Hindi.

Thyaga Bhoomi, a Tamil film is a pointer in this direction. It was directed by K Subramanyam and lead actors were M.S. Subbulakshmi and Papanasam Sivan. The film was released in theatres in May 1939. It was running to packed houses for weeks on. The film depicted people participating in protests against British rule. It also had a song praising Gandhiji. This made the Britishers uncomfortable. The film was banned after successfully running for more than 20 weeks. This was the first time in film's history that a film was banned after its release. The fans did not like the ban. Free shows were conducted in a theatre by Director Subramanyam for 24 hours before the ban order was issued. People thronged the theatre en masse and kept the police from entering the theatre.



A scene from Thyaga Bhoomi

Role of Media published from foreign soil



Sep 1908 edition published from

The Indians in Britain were not lagging behind in support for Indian freedom struggle. Shyamji Krishna Varma's started The Indian Sociologist newspaper in 1905 and published from London in the initial days and later from Paris. This newspaper propagated anti-colonial opinions and views.

The woman freedom fighter Bikaji Cama was deported to Paris. She did not remain silent there. She in association with Munchers Shah Burjorji Godrej, Rewa Bhai Rana published many literatures encouraging rebellion in India that included a song Bande Mataram and an article Madan's Talwar in response to the

execution of freedom fighter Madan Lal Dhingra. She also sent weekly magazines extolling freedom struggle to many freedom fighters in India. She also widely travelled in United States of America, bringing to their knowledge the freedom struggle in India through her talks and literature.

Conclusion

The Print Media, Radio and Movies imbibed political awareness among Indians that led to strengthening of Indian independence movement. They were not run for the sake of profit but to propagate freedom spirit among Indians. The impact of the newspapers extended well beyond cities and towns and percolated down even to villages, where it was common sight for one literate person reading the news to ten and more of the villagers. This led to viral spread of nationalism throughout India. No wonder, the media is considered as backbone of freedom movement. The media thus played a major role in spreading the independence movement far and wide and sustaining it in this vast country called India.

This quote by the former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee clearly surmises the role of media in freedom struggle: "The history of journalism in India is closely linked to the history of our freedom struggle".

Significant Pada Yatras and Rath Yatras

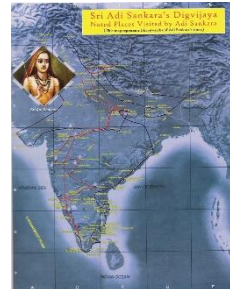
By Ramesh Sundaram, Consulting Editor (Sep 2022)

The Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is now leading a pada yatra named *Bharat Jodo Yatra* from Kanyakumari to Kashmir (about 3570 kms) from September 7, 2022. Rahul Gandhi says the motto of yatra is to unite India and strengthen the nation. So, *PreSense* thought it is pertinent and topical to look into some important pada yatras undertaken by various leaders in the annals of Indian history.

Here are some of the important Pada Yatras that impacted people: (in chronological order)

Adhi Shankaracharya Pada Yatra

Adhi Shankaracharya was arguably India's first historically recorded Pada Yatra. The 8th Century saint travelled widely across the whole of India propagating Hinduism and his philosophy. He travelled to many places in Kerala, Kashmir, Orissa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, along the slopes of the Himalayas, on the banks of rivers Narmada and Ganga and along eastern and western coasts that was instrumental in reviving and revitalizing Hinduism throughout India.



Freedom Movement - Dandi March

Mahatma Gandhi led the historical Dandi March or Dandi Salt Satyagraha from His Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad in Gujarat to the Coastal village of Dandi on March 12, 1930, and ended it after 24 days on April 6, 1930. It was a non-violent protest against the British monopoly on salt production by a law, which prevented Indians from producing or selling salt.

Further they also imposed heavy tax on salt. The march covered 48 villages in 4 districts of Gujarat. Initially the march started with less than 100 volunteers but were joined by thousands enroute. Gandhiji broke the Salt Law by producing salt at the Dandi seashore. It was a pioneer in Civil Disobedience Movement. Wide coverage given by the press about this march drew world's attention towards India's freedom struggle. Gandhiji was arrested by British for alleged illegal production of salt on May 4, 1930, and was released from prison in January 1931. The protest continued for more than a year and many eminent Congress leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu and thousands of volunteers were arrested and jailed by British. It can be said that this strong protest led to many protests like boycott of British clothes and buying swadeshi clothes only.



Dharasana March

Dharasana salt march was an immediate follow up on Dandi march. The eminent Congress leaders Abbas Tyagi, a retired judge and Gandhiji's wife Kasturba Gandhi led the first



march and were arrested. Later in May 21, 1930, veteran Congress leaders Sarojini Naidu and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad led thousands of volunteers in the march to the salt works in Dharasana coastal town in Valsad in Gujarat. The participants were beaten up brutally and many were arrested by British police.

Vedaranyam March



The Dandi march impacted the whole of India. On April 13, 1930, veteran Congress leader C Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, led a salt march (photo) in Madras State (now Tamil Nadu) from Trichinopoly (now

Tiruchirappalli or Tiruchi) to coastal village of Vedaranyam. He along with volunteers produced salt directly from sea in defiance of law enforcing British monopoly of salt production and selling and also against Salt Tax. During the march Rajaji also created awareness among people about the swadeshi khadi cloth and about evils of caste discrimination. The campaign ended on 28 April 1930 when Rajaji and the

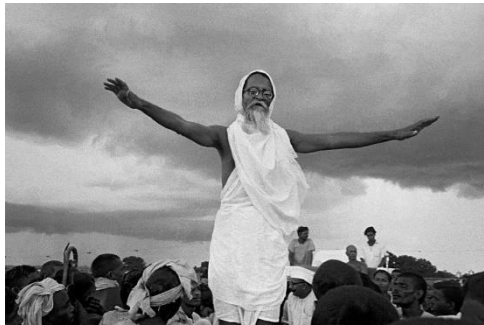
participants were arrested. Rajaji was jailed for about six months.

Pada Yatras – Apolitical and social causes

Bhoodan March

Acharya Vinoba Bhave was a close associate and a great admirer of Gandhiji. They worked together in Kochrab Ashram. The turning point in Vinoba Bhave's life came when in April 1951, he attended Sarvodaya Conference in Shivrampalli near Hyderabad. After the conference the Acharya toured Telangana area where extremist activities were on the rise. When Bhave visited Pochampalli village on April 18, 1951, the Harijans of the area requested him to get them land with which they can sustain themselves.

He asked the audience whether they can give their land as gift to Harijans. Immediately a landlord Rama Chandra Reddy announced that he would gift his 100 acres. The Acharya announced the first donation of land to poor. Thus, the Bhoodan



Movement was born. Vinoba Bhave continued the Bhoodan march through different parts of India. During this Padayatra he covered a distance of nearly 37,000 miles and collected nearly 100 million acres as donation and gifted them to landless poor. He followed it with march for Gramdan movement and received more than 1.50 lakh villages as donations. Thus, Acharya Vinoba Bhave through his march galvanised the whole of India. This Bhoodan march was one of the watersheds in Indian history.

Pada Yatras by Bahuguna

Sunderlal Bahuguna, one of the great icons of India, is the founder of the Chipko movement, which fought against deforestation of Himalayas. He conducted many pada yatras and powerfully conveyed the message of saving The Himalayas. Between 1970 and 1980 he did

more than twelve pada yatras in this regard including nearly 5000 km march from Kashmir to Kohima. His pada yatras had great impact and made the Government to announce a ban on commercial felling of trees in higher altitudes of the Himalayas.

His Chipko movement held unique protests, people hugged trees to prevent felling of trees. Bahuguna also did pada yatra and campaigned strongly against Bedthi Hydroelectric project in Karnataka which would have caused great ecological and environmental disaster. This made the Government to scrap the project itself. He further did pada yatra across south India promoting ecology conservation and saving biodiversity of Western Ghats.

Tri-Nation Ahimsa Yatra

Jain Acharya Mahashramanji led a Tri-Nation Ahimsa Yatra from Red Fort in Delhi in 2014 across three countries and 19 States covering over 50,000 km to



spread the message of peace and non-violence. He ended the march on 27th March 2022.

Rally for revitalizing of rivers



Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev led a motorcycle rally from Kanyakumari to Kashmir on September 3, 2017, traversing 16 States and 7000 kms. During the rally he conducted around 180 public events propagating the ways to revitalise the dying rivers of

India. In the photo he is leading Cauvery Calling rally.

Political Pada Yatras - YS Rajasekhara Reddy Pada Yatra

Dr. Y S Rajasekhara Reddy led a Pada Yatra in Andhra Pradesh on April 9, 2003 (photo). He walked 1500 kms covering 10 districts in 60 days to highlight the drought problem in the State and ruling Telugu Desam Party's alleged apathy towards agriculturists. This led to revival of Congress in AP and the party won the consequent Assembly elections.



Similarly, his son Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a 340-day, 3650-km Praja Sankalp Pada Yatra across 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh against the ruling party on November 6, 2017. He also won the subsequent AP Assembly elections astoundingly.

Bharat Yatra by Chandra Shekhar



Janata Dal leader and former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar undertook Pada Yatra from Kanyakumari to Delhi named Bharat Yatra from January 6, 1983, to June 25, 1983, covering about 4300 kms. The purpose was

to highlight problems in rural areas and eliminate social inequalities and also to mingle with people and understand their problems firsthand.

Rath Yatra by N T Ramarao

Actor and founder of Telugu Desam Party, N.T. Rama Rao, did a Rath Yatra termed as Chaitanya Rath Yatra in 1982. He travelled 40,000 kms across Andhra Pradesh in nine months and ended in January 1983.



This Yatra has been entered in Guinness Book Records too. NTR's Rath Yatra led to his Telugu Desam Party winning Assembly elections in AP.

Rath Yatra by L K Advani



Bharatiya Janata Party leader LK Advani conducted a Rath Yatra on September 25, 1990, from Somnath to Ayodhya to press for construction of Ram Temple in disputed Babri

masjid premises, alleging that the masjid was built after demolishing Ram Temple in the place. He planned to traverse across 23 States but was arrested midway on October 23, 1990. This led to BJP withdrawing support to VP Singh government at the Centre.

Traditionally, India has believed in undertaking Pada Yatras to spread some message or to create awareness of something significant. Even the ancient Rishis were continuously on yatra to meet the people. In the modern days also, these pada yatras and rath yatras have yielded significant results, if they are undertaken seriously.

Meditation is the Greatest Boon for Body and Mind

By Prime Point Srinivasan, Mg. Editor (Oct 2023)

On 7th October, 2009, we recorded a podcast interview with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. In that podcast interview (republished in this edition for convenience), Dr Abdul Kalam mentioned that based on research by Global Hospital, Mount Abu, supported by him, when he was in DRDO, it was found that cardiac problems can be prevented by 3D approach. He said that (1) fibrous food, (2) regular exercise or walking and (3) meditation can help to prevent many health issues. Editorial Team decided to carry this Cover Story on the various aspects of Meditation and how it helps to keep a good health. Every one of the Indian should feel proud that our ancestors have gifted the concept of Yoga to the world, which now enjoys the benefit fully.

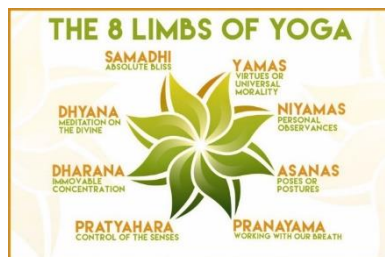
Yogacharyan Shri Suresh Veera (Senior Yoga expert) and Dr A V Srinivasan (Internationally renowned Neurologist) share their expert views exclusively for the readers of PreSense.



Conversation with Yogacharyan Shri Suresh Veera. (photo)

Q: What is the origin of Yoga and Meditation?

A: Sage Pathanjali and Sage Thirumoolar compiled verses on Yoga and prescribed 8 steps for practise. These 8 steps are (1) Yama (social ethics), (2) Niyama (personal ethics), (3) Asana (posture), (4) Pranayama (breathing practice) (5) Pratyahara



(withdrawal of senses), (6) Dharana (concentration), (7) Dhyana (Meditation) and (8) Samadhi (Blissful state)

Due to health requirements, presently people follow only Asana and little bit of Pranayama. Practising only a small bit of Yogic practise, everybody claims as if they are doing complete Yoga practise. The first four items of the Ashtanga Yoga are called Bahiranga Yoga (physical preparation for the next four stages). The next four stages form part of 'Antharanga Yoga'. It is more mind oriented. In the Antharanga Yoga, Dhyana, which is commonly called Meditation, plays a greater role in controlling manifestation of thoughts.



The term Dhyana appears in Rig Veda and Upanishads. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna explains the significance and methodology of Meditation in details. (Chapter 6 – Slokas 10 to 27).

In Chapter 6, Sloka 19, Lord Krishna describes as to how the mind should be during meditation.

यथा दीपो निवातस्थो नेङ्गते सोपमा स्मृता ।
योगिनो यतचित्तस्य युञ्जतो योगमात्मनः ॥ १९॥

yathā dīpo nivāta-stho neṅgate sopamā smṛitā
yogino yata-chittasya yuñjato yogam ātmanah

Translation: As a lamp
in a windless place does
not waver, the
transcendentalist,
whose mind is
controlled, should

remain always steady in his meditation on the transcendent Self.

Q: As a Yoga teacher, can you explain the benefits that the Meditation can provide?

A: Besides clinical benefits, the meditation stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system to lead a healthy life. Constant thought of one particular idea takes the practitioners to the peak. Only through continuous practice, one can really enjoy the benefits.

Q: What are the challenges you see for beginners in meditation?

A: There are two types of meditations. One is active and second is passive. Our daily routines and work-related efforts are called active meditation, like any work done by anybody with passion. Meditation through sitting posture and following certain school of practice is called passive meditation. Eg. Rajayoga Meditation, Transcendental Meditation, Mindfulness, Antar Mouna, etc.

Meditation has to be done sitting in a place with spine erect in a stable posture. Initially, the beginners will find this as difficult. Sitting without any pain and numbness for a long time by the beginners is also a challenge. Generally, the duration of exhalation should be longer than the inhalation. Because of external thoughts and disturbances, beginners may find it difficult to balance the breathing rate.

In the beginning, the practitioners may get disturbances in the mind through past unwanted impressions, negative and cynical thoughts. This is due to cleaning up of mind during the initial stages of meditation. The practitioners should not get discouraged and start observing the thought without attaching to the thought.

With the continuous practise of Asana and Meditation, these challenges, including, the negative thoughts may get reduced and vanish.

Q: What are the various methods of Meditation?

A: Broadly, I group the Meditation under these categories. Mantra Meditation: When a person has a disturbed or wavering mind, he can chant 'Ohm' orally for maximum of 20 minutes. Each '**Ohm**' can be for 3 seconds in the same rhythm listening to the sound created. Practitioners will find his mind getting calm during the course of practise.

Ajapa Japa: This is a Vedic meditation. It is an ancient practise using the mantra '**SOO HAM**', combined with breathing technique. This technique has survived the test of time for centuries.

Vipasana: This is the ancient type of meditation of India. Sitting in any comfortable posture with spine erect, the practitioners can observe his thoughts with eyes closed preferably. Antar Mouna and Mindfulness are similar to this practice in the sense for watching their own thoughts. Though there are various methods of Meditation prescribed in ancient Indian scriptures, in the modern days, many Yoga Gurus have designed several Meditation techniques to suit the needs of practitioners to improve the health of body and mind. Traditionally, Meditation is being practised in a sitting posture with spine erect. Due to some physical and mental difficulties, some practitioners may not be able to sit and practise Meditation.

Yoga Nidra is another tool to practise Meditation and to relax the body and mind in a lying down position. The practice should be done either during dawn or dusk in an empty stomach. When practised during dawn, the body and mind will get the energy for the full day. The clarity of the

mind will be perfect to match the job requirements. When practised during dusk, it cleans up stress and strain of the day. By practising Meditation, one can shine in their field with more efficiency and productivity.

Before start practising Meditation, the practitioners should consult their family doctors and learn the techniques from a competent Yoga Teacher.

Q: Do you suggest any meditation practice before going to sleep?

There should be a gap of a minimum of two hours between dinner and retiring to bed. It is always healthy to go to bed before 11 pm. Before going to sleep, sit erect and practise breathing. (Inhale through both the nostrils for 3 seconds and exhale for 5 seconds). Practise this for 5 minutes focusing on inhale and exhale. Immediately retire to bed with positive thoughts.

Dr Abdul Kalam on Meditation

On behalf of PreSense and PodUniversal, we recorded an exclusive interview with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on 7th October 2009. He gave a five-minute message on "Three-Dimensional Health Care Approach for Youth". We have heard Dr Kalam speaking on the topic of economics, India Vision, education, etc. On our specific request he spoke about the health care for youth.



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 and rare healthcare-related message, please share this podcast with your contacts.

<https://youtu.be/VGKDKEWpptw>

Meditation is the Greatest Boon for Clinical Application

By Prime Point Srinivasan, Mg. Editor (Oct 2023)

In an exclusive interview with PreSense, Dr A V Srinivasan, (photo) an internationally renowned neurologist with 50 years of practice confirms that meditation helps to cure many diseases. Excerpts from his interview.



Q: What is meditation?

A: There is no single universally accepted definition for Meditation. Meditation is a practice by which an individual uses a technique, like Mindfulness, with the mind focused on an object that is thought or activity to train attention and awareness. The purpose is to reach mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state. Awareness is the beginning. Intellect joins. Mind operates. Mind acts on the brain. Brain acts on the body and the body acts on the environment. Awareness at this point of time, is beyond science. Mind acts on the brain and the brain cannot act on the mind. Mind is nothing but thought. Science could not study the temporal sequence of thought, but can study only the spatial sequence of thought. Nobody knows from where the thoughts come from because it takes place at 50 milli-seconds level. Thought is a vibration.

Meditation is practised by several religious traditions. Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism have been following this technique for centuries. Asian Meditative culture spread to other parts of the world in the 19th century.

Q: What are the Benefits of meditation?

A: It significantly reduces stress, anxiety, depression and pain. It also proved that it enhances the peace and perception of individuals. Researches are going on now to better understand

the effect of Meditation on various health aspects. In the Neurology area, we have done lot of research. We have proved that with meditation and without drugs, patients get better.

Q: How many categories are there in meditation?

There are many definitions. Meditation is part of Yoga. In the West, they divide the Meditation into two broad categories. First one is 'Focused' or Concentrative Meditation. The second one is 'Open Monitoring' or Mindfulness Meditation. In all our activities, 'Awareness' plays a crucial role. Awareness is an emotion. It is a 'self-realisation'. When a person meditates, he slowly reaches 'blissful state'.

Q: How Meditation helps in clinical application?

A: Clinical application of Meditation is a wonderful one. Open type meditation reduces stress and is used as cognitive therapy and in pain management. Meditation also helps in irritable bowel syndrome, insomnia, cognitive decline in the elderly and post-traumatic stress disorder. When a person meditates, his perception becomes very sharp and thinking becomes very clear.

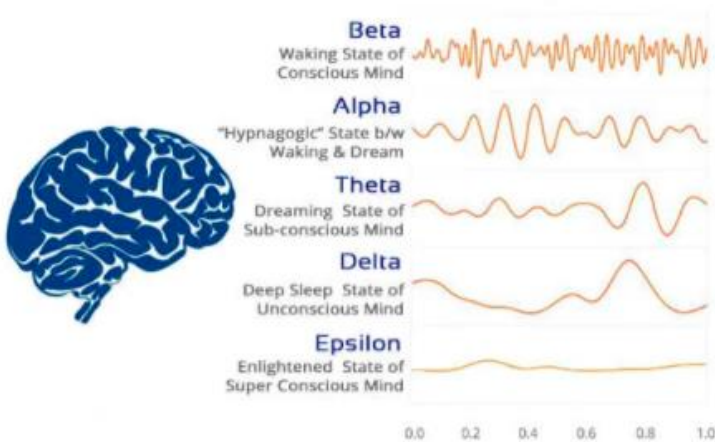
Q: Can allopathic doctors prescribe meditation for their patients?

A: Yes. As a Senior Neurologist, I prescribe Meditation to my patients. Though it is not included in the education system of English medicine, many Doctors have started prescribing Meditation to their patients. I have done extensive research on Yoga and Meditation. The description I have given is 'Knowing rather than thinking in Meditative consciousness'.

Q: Can you explain how the brain wave is affected during meditation?

A: In normal people our electroencephalogram (EEG) activity is 9 to 13 cycles per second which is called Alpha rhythm that is present in parieto occipital lobe region of the brain. When

a person reaches perfection in meditation, this Alpha wave becomes Theta Wave. (5 to 8 cycles per second) If a person's brain activity goes to Theta Wave as a normal person without meditation, he becomes 'drowsy'. When it touches 4 cycles per second, he is in 'deep sleep'.



If a person is meditating, consciousness is not lost or made drowsy. He is alert even in Theta wave, that is at 5 cycles per second. When he enters delta wave that is 4 cycles per second, he is in the awakened state. When a person perfects his meditative consciousness, his brain activity comes to 1.5 to 2.5 cycles per second. That state is called 'Epsilon' State. In this Epsilon State, the human being gets over the control of autonomic nervous system. He can increase or reduce the body temperature. He can raise or lower the pulse rate. He can even dry a wet blanket put on his shoulders by raising his body temperature. This is called Tumos effect. This Tumos effect can be seen at 1.5 to 2.5 cycles per second. If the person continues the meditative consciousness, he can attain Samadhi state. Sri Shirdi Sai Baba has demonstrated this Samadhi state for 3 days continuously.

If you look at Meditation as science, it lowers the heart rate, lowers the oxygen consumption, lowers the breathing frequency. One need not go for drug for modest blood pressure. Meditation will bring the BP to the normal level. It is applicable even for stress.

During the sleep, oxygen consumption gets reduced by 4 to 5 % in four hours. Whereas, during meditation, oxygen consumption gets reduced by 10 to 20% within 3 minutes. My studies have proved that diabetes patients have been benefited largely because of continuous meditation.

Q: Have you noticed any adverse effects of Meditation?

A: In a study of 1232 regular meditators (for two months), in 2019, one fourth of them had experienced anxiety, fear and distorted emotions and thoughts. Three-fourth of them had good experience. It is because of the quality of meditation. Negative thinking and cynical people when they meditate, they get bad experience, while positive thinking people get the full advantage. Difficult experiences encountered in the meditation are mentioned in the traditional sources. 'Seven Stages of Purification' in the Deivatha Buddhism and practical manual of Vipasana Meditation discuss about them in detail. When meditation is practised properly by positive thinking people, it gives enormous advantages.

Author's note: *Readers are advised to start practising Yoga and Meditation, after consulting their family doctor and under the guidance of competent Yoga Teacher.*

Beware and Be Aware of Fake News in the Social Media

By Ramesh Sundaram, Consulting Editor (Nov 2022)



Induja Raghunathan

With the estimated 650 million plus internet users in India and with the growth of technology like 5G, the credibility of the information that we receive is also under threat. India is the largest user base for platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Instagram. The Annual Search India Report of Google indicates that 2 in 3 Google searches are coming from the locations outside the 5 metros. It also reveals that local language searches are increasing every year. The activities of social media platforms are mindboggling. 500 million blogs are written every day; 500 hours of videos are uploaded on YouTube every minute; 340 million photos are uploaded in Facebook daily; 500 million persons use Instagram stories daily; 6000 tweets are posted on Twitter every second.

This has resulted in the dissemination of fake or false information through text messages, images and videos on large scale. This has become a great challenge for the users and to Police authorities.

In an exclusive interview with Ramesh Sundaram, Consulting Editor of *PreSense*, Induja Raghunathan, a Senior Journalist with more than two decades of experience in print, television and digital media explains the fake news and fact checking concepts. Induja is also a certified trainer on this subject. She is one of the very few experts in India to identify the fake news.

Excerpts:

What is Fake news?

Fake news is not the correct term. Common man understands only this term. It is a combination of variety of false information. We get information from different sources online. Fake news is a poorly defined term that combines nine varieties of false information. They are: (1) Mis-information (2) Dis-information (3) Unscientific claims (4) Rumours (5) False context (6) Imposter content (7) Manipulated content (8) Satire or parody and (9) propaganda.

Common man comes across mis-information and dis-information daily.

Misinformation is the information that is false, but the person who is disseminating it believes that it is true.

Disinformation is the information that is false, and the person who is disseminating it knows it is false. It is a deliberate, intentional lie. The person who disseminates this may have a political or personal hidden agenda. For example, you may be aware during Covid pandemic, many people collected money creating sympathy using the names of reliable persons.

Psychologically, people tend to believe fake news often without verification. There are many instances, the fake news has cost lives (eg.: lynching, false information about child kidnappers, etc.). Women harassment happens with fake news. Even senior politicians are not spared.

How a common man can identify the fake news?

Develop critical thinking. *PAY ATTENTION, OBSERVE, because attention is the gateway to mind.* There are no laws in India, other than cyber laws to curb this menace. If any information comes to you, please do not believe immediately. Many people tend to forward such fake messages immediately out

of *Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)* without verification. Most of the WhatsApp groups are flooded with such fake 'forwarded' messages. Such messages consume the data and the service provider gets the benefit.



Some people create such false content and circulate it with a specific agenda. You may remember that during corona time, many false messages were circulated prescribing medicines. With good intention many people forwarded these to others without knowing the implications.

Before further forwarding such messages, every person should think as to (1) why such message is received (2) is the message true and (3) is it needed to forward further.

For example, if a message is received informing that the schools would be closed next day, before forwarding, the receiver can take a few minutes by searching in the google. To get the correct results, put the keywords under double quote (") and using the 'tools' button, filter the duration, like 24 hours, one week, etc. If mainline or traditional media sites carry this information, then we can believe.

For photo or image verification, you can google image search with key words in double quote ("). Or you can do 'Reverse Image Search' to verify the authenticity of any image. Right click the image and click on 'Search image with Google Lens'. You can detect if any picture is morphed or not.

For example, in 2015, a picture was circulated with Kamala Harris, Vice President of USA, in traditional South Indian saree.

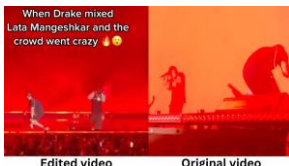
Through reverse image search, it was found out to be a morphed one.

There are some advanced fake news verification sites like Alt news, AFP Fast Check, Boom live, First Check, etc. Leading media houses like India Today, NDTV, etc. have their own 'Fact Checking Team', in their Editorial desk. They use advanced tools to detect the fake information, images and videos.



Courtesy: Alt News

Basic fake images can be found out through 'reverse image search', but 'deep fakes' need advanced tools for verification. Video verification - An extension tool 'Invid' can be installed in Chrome or Firefox browser. If you copy and paste the URL of the subject video, it will analyse frame by frame and detect if there is any fake portion of the video.



Courtesy: Boom Live

Popular Canadian rapper Drake and American rapper Lil Wayne had their stage performance at Toronto in August 2022. A video that was uploaded in Instagram had a brief clip of remixed version of late Lata Mangeshkar's iconic song, *Didi Tera Dewar Deewana*. It attracted more than 2 million viewers immediately. This posting went viral, with exciting comments hailing Canadian rappers singing Indian song. Even mainline channels carried this video. Later, BOOM was able to confirm that the song playing in the background was 'The Motto', sung by Drake and Lil Wayne, and not 'Didi Tera Dewar Deewana'. for more details about this story, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/fakevideo1>

What is the responsibility of the common man, if he comes across fake message, image or video?

Generally traditional media like print and television have different layers of 'gate keeping' for editing and verification, before they release the information. If people find that the information is fake or wrong in the traditional media, they can seek legal remedy and/or report to the concerned authorities concerned.

In the social media, information is disseminated by individuals without any 'gate-keeping' or verification. Common man cannot detect who emanates a fake information. The Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp will share the information only with the Government Authorities like Courts and Police. Since there is no accountability in the social media, people should be more careful while trusting and consuming the information passed through social media.

The affected people can approach the cybercrime police for necessary action.

What message you want to convey to the Government to curb this menace?

There are no strong laws in India to address this issue, other than the cyber laws. With the technological growth, the fake news menace will be haunting the society more in future. Hence, the Government should strictly enforce discipline among the social media platforms to respond to the Government Authorities, whenever complaints are made.

'Information literacy' is more required than 'fact-checking' to curb this menace. This means, before spreading the false information, the users of social media should think for a while before forwarding to others. The Government should also

ensure that more awareness is created among the internet users and media persons about 'information literacy'.

Persons in higher position, celebrities and influencers should be more careful while sharing or forwarding any information in the social media, as this may be trusted by all his/her followers and the society.

Agony and Ecstasy – Alarm Bell Rings

By Prime Point Srinivasa, Mg. Editor (Dec 2022)

The results of the recent Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh



Assembly Elections and also that of Delhi MCD have created joy and sorrow simultaneously to the parties like BJP, Congress and AAP. While these three parties have every reason to celebrate, they also need to introspect and learn the lessons. BJP secured an unprecedented massive mandate to rule Gujarat for the 8th time in succession since 1990.

Gujarat Assembly Elections

This State has 4.90 crore voters with 182 Assembly seats. 68.4% voters participated in the elections.

During 2022 Assembly elections, BJP increased its seats from 99 to 156 (+57) with 3% increase in vote share. Congress got lesser seats from 77 to 17 (-60) with 14% loss of vote share. AAP, the new entrant, got 5 seats for the first time with 13% vote share. AAP has taken away the major vote share from Congress.

“Since Congress is not creating confidence among people as a good opposition, opponents of BJP are slowly moving towards AAP. AAP is growing uniformly in all areas, including the strong areas of BJP. In 2024, AAP may emerge as the

second largest party in Gujarat, pushing the Congress away” says JVC Sreeram, a Hyderabad-based poll analyst.

According to the Lokniti-CSDS post-poll survey, women voters have comparatively voted less for BJP. Since this phenomenon is seen in all the three elections, we will analyse the reasons towards the end of this story.

Himachal Pradesh Assembly Elections

This is a small State with 56 lakh voters and 68 Assembly seats. Even a marginal swing of vote share is likely to tilt the balance.

BJP, which was ruling the State lost 5.8% vote share over 2017 Election and secured 25 seats. Congress has increased 2.2% vote share over the previous election and secured 40 seats to form the Government. The vote share difference in 2022 elections between BJP and Congress is only 0.9%. Net difference of 8% between these two parties over the previous election, has resulted in Congress securing 15 seats more than BJP. Both the parties have secured 18 lakhs plus votes and their vote difference is only 39,000. This is an interesting phenomenon. In the *First-past-the-post* voting method, such marginal swing of votes, particularly in small States, may result in huge swing of seats and even the change of guard. While BJP did an aggressive campaign to retain the Government, with Prime Minister Modi himself addressing the rallies, Congress with its in-fight did not campaign much. None of the senior leaders of Congress took serious interest. Even Rahul Gandhi was on a Pada Yatra in some other State. In spite of this, the people voted for Congress. Out of 12 districts, BJP drew blank in 4 districts.

Surveys indicated more than 60 percent satisfaction on their earlier BJP Govt and more than 80 percent on Modi Government. In spite of the higher satisfaction level, BJP lost

the Government. This election needs to be studied by all political parties, analysts and students.

Both Hyderabad based poll analyst JVC Sreeram and Chennai based poll analyst Sundaram Nagarajan, agree that due to overconfidence the BJP lost the Government. Lokniti-CSDS Survey indicates that women voters, rich class and lower middle and poor class voters have not supported BJP fully this time. According to poll analysts, the promise of Old Pension Scheme by Congress, inclusion of Hatti community into ST category, rejection of Agnipath by people, increase of GST for Apple packaging have all contributed for not voting for BJP. "There are several factors which have worked against the ruling BJP and every factor has made one segment unhappy. Even the smallest swing may cause problem", says JVC Sreeram.

"Rebel candidates posed problems for both BJP and Congress. BJP denied tickets to strong sitting MLAs who can win. Three rebel candidates of BJP have won as independent candidates. BJP's eight rebel candidates spoiled the winning opportunity of official candidates because of the vote margin. Similarly, four rebel candidates of Congress spoiled the winning chances of their party", says Sundaram Nagarajan.

Delhi MCD

Three Corporations of Delhi were merged as a single body. The unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) formally came into existence from 22nd May 2022. MCD has nearly 1.50 crore voters with 250 seats. Only 50% of the voters participated in the election.

In the recent elections, AAP captured the power from BJP, who ruled for 3 terms. AAP secured 134 seats (up by 85 seats over previous election) with increase of 16% vote share. BJP secured 104 seats (down by 77 seats) with increased vote

share of 3%. Congress secured only 9 seats (down by 22 seats) with reduction of 9.4% vote share.

In spite of the fact that there were lot of corruption charges against AAP and some of the Ministers are in jail, AAP could increase the vote share by 16% and 77 seats. Even the post poll survey indicates that generally people seem to be satisfied with the basic services offered by AAP Government in Delhi UT.

“According to the post poll survey, minorities, Dalits and women have largely supported AAP and sizeable portion has moved away from BJP. Even the upper middle class also have started supporting AAP. Arvind Kejriwal is forming a formidable ‘social coalition’ silently”, says JVC Sreeram in an exclusive interview with the popular YouTube Channel Kolahalas TV. Concurring with this view, Sundaram Nagarajan cautions that if BJP does not address this issue immediately, BJP would face similar problem in the Assembly elections of Karnataka and Haryana too.

Our observations and Conclusion

Based on the post poll survey, PreSense had telephonic conversation with a cross section of the people, including Modi Bhaktas, RSS Karyakarthas, opponents of BJP, etc.

Uniformly everybody, including BJP workers, agree that price rise of essential commodities like grains, petrol, LPG, etc. is causing concern and drives women voters away from BJP.

When PreSense team pointed out about the India’s global leadership like G20, one educated young rural voter angrily answered, “I am not aware of G20, but I am concerned about only G4, that is Grain, Goods, Gas and GST. Kindling patriotism and emotions during election time would wither

away when stomach is empty". This is a very powerful message for the ruling BJP.

Price rise has worried women. 87% percent people in Gujarat in recent survey has shown concern over price rise, though they have voted for BJP. Economy is growing in an amazing manner. But it does not help household women.

Though TINA (There is No Alternative) factor and lack of unity among the opposition is in favour of BJP for 2024 Parliament elections, they cannot take it for granted in a complacent manner. The price rise of basic items, including grains, gas and petrol may pose great problem to BJP when it faces polls in 2024. Now the regional parties like DMK, AIADMK, NCP, Shiv Sena, TMC, YSR Congress, Telugu Desam, TRS (now BRS), etc. are becoming strong. These regional parties and their Karyakarthas reach out to the people for providing support. Unfortunately, BJP and Congress lack connectivity with the last mile. Even when RSS reaches out, they do not publicise.

Due to lack of connectivity with the public and lack of strong leaders, Congress is slowly losing out. Whatever Congress has gained in Himachal Pradesh is because of the anti-incumbency over BJP. Congress can be the only national party to oppose BJP. Congress going out of the political map of India is not in the interest of the country. Congress leadership should realise this and take efforts to regain the lost glory.

According to the experts, though AAP has captured some seats in 3 States and attained national party stature it cannot reach the entire country. They may not even be able to sustain for a long time in many States, due to their immature statements and perceived relationship with banned organisations.

The post poll survey indicates that uniformly in all the three States, nearly 50 to 60 percent of the BJP voters, voted for

Modi. Even the poll analysts and senior RSS Karyakartas indicate that it is not good for the democracy. RSS does not prefer 'Hero worship'. This indicates that BJP has not developed strong charismatic leaders at the regional level to attract votes. Regional parties have strong leaders like Mamta Banerjee, M K Stalin, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, Nitish Kumar, Lallu Prasad Yadav and others, to capture votes. A senior RSS Karyakarta says that BJP needs to develop more *Modis* in all the 29 States. He also suggests that RSS can identify good leaders from the RSS cadre to become future leaders and train them for future. Even Narendra Modi is from the cadre only.

A Delhi-based retired Senior Bureaucrat with whom we spoke says that BJP is committing the same mistake what Indira Gandhi did during her times, by not encouraging regional leaders. That led to the collapse of Congress slowly. The Bureaucrat worked with Indira Gandhi also.

Many observers point out that presently, BJP, claiming to be a 'party with difference', in a hurry to capture power in various States, bring even undesirable people with dubious background to their fold, violating the tradition of including only people with good background.

"Modi is doing lot of heavy lifting for the entire party. Now he is the only face of BJP for capturing votes. This is not good in the long run. They should allow regional level leaders to grow. It has happened in UP, Assam, etc. Core vote catcher should be a local leader. Modi should be only poster leader. It is good for the party and nation. Every regional leaders should take the Schemes to the people, communicate effectively, without waiting for Modi to talk." Sundaram Nagarajan sums up.

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