

PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations

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Cover Story of the Month



Prof. Stephen Hawking

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From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief

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



Lao Tsu, the Chinese philosopher who founded the philosophy of Taoism, said, *"To see things in the seed, that is genius"*. The ability to see beyond the obvious is what we need to understand the incomprehensible and the mysterious. Living in the 21st century with most of us racing against time in our daily lives, it is our good fortune that till very recently, we had a scientific genius amongst us, who was able to unravel the ever-mysterious world of the Universe, black holes and what probably is the future of the Earth we live in. Our cover story features this genius, Stephen Hawking who died recently. We are certainly lucky to have had this genius as our contemporary on Earth.

Our world has many unsung heroes who in their own, unique ways make life a miracle by the way they deal with it. This issue narrates the life about one such unsung hero close to the heart of the Editorial Team. She is Divya.

Incidentally, our Editorial too highlights the uniqueness of another hero, in order to discuss an important societal issue about how we treat those who are 'different'.

We have elections in the offing, be they the Assembly elections in May, or the Parliamentary elections next year. Politics plays an integral part in our lives, as governance of the country affects us. For this reason, the quality of governance and politics is critical. Unfortunately, we seem to have little praise for the kind of politics we face everyday. We take a look at how ethical practices can be followed in politics and governance when we compare ours with that of Canada.

A week ago, the Digital Journalists' Association of India (DijAI), an initiative of PreSense, held a one-day workshop to cater to and encourage the semi-rural and rural college student community of the Virudhunagar-Sivakasi area of Tamil Nadu State. We bring you a report on it and the inauguration of the Students' Chapter there.

Our mascot, Prince is with us again with his quip.

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

Susan

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<https://www.youtube.com/c/primepointfoundation/>



Editorial

The Challenged and The Differently Abled Are Not Challenged. They are Just Different.

The Madras Management Association (MMA) recently organised a Women Managers' Convention, presenting several outstanding women achievers on the dais – a former Indian ambassador, an actor-producer, two world class mountaineers and so on. Among them was an Inspector of Police, Prithika Yashini by name (*Photo*). What is outstanding about her was that she is the first transgender in India to make it to the police force, and she made it on merit, clearing the multi-tier selection process with excellence. The story of how she faced and overcame her unusual life challenges, was inspirational. Refusing to tread the beaten track of transgenders who resort to prostitution and begging for survival, Prithika strived and overcame the rejection of her family and ouster from her hometown, depression, inadequate means and peer temptations. She aspired to make a positive difference in her life as well as others', especially those of her kind. And she did it, proving the point that anyone with passion and determination can make it in life. She said she was also guiding three other aspiring transgenders to make it to the police force.



In a society which visibly and unfairly discriminates against this gender, Prithika worked her way round the discrimination and soared up the ladder of success to join the mainstream of the society. This achievement won her recognition on the corporate stage along with the other achievers.

There are two ways in which we can regard and treat the challenged and differently abled people of the society. We can either sympathise with them and give them special treatment and privileges so that they continue to dwell in their challenged category and be always treated differently. Another way is to empathise with them and lend the kind of support to haul them up from the level of disadvantage to perform in excellence without discrimination, in the mainstream of the society. Prithika proved that she was as good and even better than anyone to reach the helm of success.

Our government reduces the eligibility criteria and qualifying standards to accommodate the disadvantaged sections of the society – be it caste, economic class or physical ability. While it is obvious that there is less of welfare and more of political mileage in these initiatives, the compromise in the quality of professionalism, commitment, and the society as a fallout of this, is already beginning to show.

Prithika, who lifted herself from the societal dumps and climbed the ladder of success through persistence, perseverance and positivity, focusses on the correct strategy to be adopted to uplift the disadvantaged – by raising them up to the standard of excellence in a field of fair-play – and not by bringing down the standards to accommodate them. The latter is discrimination against the meritorious. As long as such unfair partiality continues, societal discrimination against the differently challenged will not go away. Let us therefore recognise them as differently "abled" and raise them up into the main fold of the society, instead of compromising to accommodate them.

Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief



Cover Story

A Genius of a Million Years, Stephen Hawking



The entire world wept when Professor Stephen William Hawking passed away on March 14th 2018 at the age of 76. He was the Director of Research at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics and Founder of the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at Cambridge, United Kingdom. It is interesting to know as to why the world should mourn the death of a scientist.

Understanding how our earth was created, how our solar system came into existence and how the universe itself was born, were questions of keen interest for mankind since the first man was born on earth about 4.2 million years ago.

Many things in the quest to understand the universe were not known until Professor Albert Einstein gave his powerful Theory of Relativity, which helped to understand the universe better. But when Professor Stephen William Hawking used the four tools of Relativity, Gravity, Quantum Mechanics and Thermodynamics to explain with amazing intelligence, almost all the mysteries about the origin of our entire universe and to some extent its possible end are now understood beyond reasonable doubt. This is why Professor Stephen William Hawking is regarded a genius of a million years.

Hawking as a Genius Scientist

Professor Stephen Hawking worked on the basic laws which govern the universe. Hawking felt that it was necessary to unify Einstein's General Relativity Theory with Quantum Theory.



- To the surprise of the world, he went on to prove that black holes are not completely black, but that they emit radiation which we now call the 'Hawking' Radiation. By emitting such radiation, the black hole will eventually evaporate until it dies completely.
- Hawking mathematically proved that information cannot be lost inside a black hole but that in fact it is conserved.
- Hawking also proved that the universe has no direction, edge or boundary in imaginary time. This is like saying that there is no north as a dimension or direction beyond the North Pole and the Earth.



Based on the above three contributions by Hawking, the world today considers him a genius of a million years, along with Einstein.

Hawking on the Future of Humanity

i) Safety of Life on Earth

Hawking used to ask, "In a world that is in chaos politically, socially and environmentally, how can the human race sustain another 100 years?". He elaborated, "I ask this question so that people can think about it, and to be aware of the dangers we now face." Hawking expressed concern that life on Earth was at risk from a sudden nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus, global warming, or other dangers humans have not yet thought of. Such a planet-wide disaster need not result in human extinction if the human race is able to colonise additional planets before the disaster. Hawking viewed spaceflight and the colonisation of space as necessary for the future of humanity.

ii) Aliens

Hawking stated that given the vastness of the universe, aliens are likely to exist, but that contact with them should be avoided. He warned that aliens might pillage the earth for resources. He said, "If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which did not turn out well for the Native Americans."

iii) Artificial Intelligence

Hawking warned that super intelligent Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be pivotal in steering the fate of the human race, stating that "the potential benefits are huge. Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. It might also be the last unless we learn how to avoid the risks."



iv) Religion and Philosophy

He said that philosophical problems can be increasingly explained by science, particularly new scientific theories which "lead us to a new and very different picture of the universe and our place in it". He said that even if we assumed that God had decreed all the physical laws, God did not interfere to violate any of them. He was a vigorous supporter of the Many-Worlds Theory.

Personal Life of Hawking

Hawking had a very rare early onset of a slow-progressing form of motor neurone disease (also known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, "ALS" or Lou Gehrig's Disease) that gradually led to paralysis, over the decades. Even after the loss of his speech, he was still able to communicate through a speech-generating device, initially through use of a hand-held switch, and eventually by using a single cheek muscle.

Uniqueness of Hawking

Stephen William Hawking was the distinguished Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge. His books "A Brief History of Time" and "Theory of Everything" are extremely popular and more than a million copies of the former title were sold.

Hawking's dates of birth and death both hold special significance as he was born on the 300th death anniversary of Galileo and he died on 139th birth anniversary of Einstein.

Rare Honours Won by Hawking

Great Britain honoured him with its highest award, Commander of the British Empire. In a very rare gesture, former US President Barack Obama, awarded Hawking The Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian award of America. This Award was presented for guiding humanity in a path-breaking manner using the highest order of science and ingenuity. Hawking is also in the elite group of the 100 Greatest Britons ever lived, according to a BBC-conducted poll.

Hawking's Last Wish

Hawking had often said, "We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe, and for that, I am extremely grateful." Hawking wished that the Black Hole Equation which he formulated, be written on his tomb (*See image on right*).

Hawking's equation:

$$S = \frac{\pi A k c^3}{2 h G}$$

Key

S entropy
h the Planck constant
G Newton's constant
A area of event horizon
c speed of light
k Boltzmann's constant

By Prof. R. Jagannathan, Editorial Advisor





PRince

By- Triambak Sharma



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I am afraid..whenever I deposit money....they Smile...



International

Ethics in Politics – Role Model in Canada



The Parliament of Canada

When we talk about politics, the clichés that most often go with the word, are 'dirty' and 'corrupt'. Politics and politicians as well as the Government most often mean power, where "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". And this is a universal impression.

Against this background, when the PreSense Editorial Team met up with Mr Ranjith Narayanasamy, a political volunteer from Canada and discussed about the quality of politics in Canada, the information shared by

him was enlightening. Ranjith is a registered Professional Engineer who has also been associated with several political campaigns in Canada over the past decade at federal, provincial and municipal levels. Ranjith shared about how Canadian politics is transparent and how Canadian politicians hold the highest level of dedicated service and integrity in their public life through its open and transparent political system. He highlighted the following points that have facilitated the practice of integrity and high standards of morale in public servants of Canada:

- 1) A professional and non-partisan federal public civil service is an integral part of the Canadian democracy. Civil service is professionally run and is not just government appointments. The civil servants do not change with change of the government.
- 2) Civil servants follow a high legal and ethical standards. Over the past century, this practice has become ingrained in the Canadian political culture.
- 3) All expenses of the Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are in the public domain and under scrutiny all the time. If any expense is deemed inappropriate as public expense, the MP, the MLA or the minister is asked to reimburse those expenses to the public coffer.
- 4) The control/monitoring system followed in the Canadian political system to ensure that high standards of integrity and morale are followed is the *Open and Accountable Government*. It sets out core principles regarding the roles and the responsibilities of the ministers in Canada's system of responsible parliamentary government.
- 5) On the critical issue of ethical conduct, the ministers are expected to be thoroughly familiar with and adhere to the contents of the *Conflict of Interest Act*.
- 6) The Conflict of Interest Bill also provides for an annual declaration of the private interests of senators, Members of the House of Commons, their spouses and dependent children to an independent three-member Conflict of Interests Commission. Penalty for non-compliance ranges from fines to loss of the Member's or Senator's seat.
- 7) Canada has an independent Ethics Commissioner who can provide advice to the Members of Parliament and is also enabled to adjudicate alleged breaches of ethics.



8) The Canadian Elections Body which oversees all federal elections, is also empowered to receive information and impose penalties for breaches of conduct and transgressions that do not conform to the Elections Act.

9) The *Parliament of Canada Act* prohibits a member from receiving outside compensation for services rendered on any matter before the House, the Senate or their committees. Pursuant to that Act, a Member found guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine and is disqualified from being a Member of the House of Commons and from holding any office in the public service of Canada for five years after conviction for that offence. In addition, the *Criminal Code* provides for 14 years' imprisonment for a parliamentarian who accepts or attempts to obtain any form of valuable consideration for doing or omitting to do anything in his or her official capacity.



Ranjith Narayanasamy

10) The corruption issues are addressed by dedicated committees appointed for the purpose and the process is followed ethically.

11) The public has access to full disclosure on any public issue. The Freedom of Information Act is very powerful in Canada.

When asked if India could learn from Canada, and aspire for a corruption-free system, Ranjith believed that India could learn lessons from Canada, especially about an inclusive society, accommodating diversity with open arms. In Canada, every citizen is equally eligible for similar services irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or economic background. There is no queue-jumping or special privileges in its government system. Ranjith feels that the real key is to encourage the media to look for corruption.

The Indian public has to be educated to realise that corruption leads to poor decisions. Once corruption is seen as unacceptable by a majority of the voters, change becomes easier. If corruption is accepted as a "normal" way of doing business, it is hard to implement a major change. Incidentally, Ranjith observes that in Canada, most of the leaders are young and university-educated. All candidates seeking political office at any level of government have to understand the law and rules around election funding and personal integrity.

In conclusion, when one compares the political, social and legal provisions of India with Canada, one will find that India is equally well-equipped in its legislatures, norms, rules and penalties to deter corruption. If corruption persists in spite of it, the lacuna is in the lack of intent among its public and government servants. Proper education of the majority of its people is also critical so that they can understand the implication of the election system and governance, their impact on the masses, and their role and responsibility in making it work. Success in transforming India into a corruption-free country and society can happen only if there is an equally strong positive intent, implementation and practice of the standards and norms spelt out in the legislatures, laws and rules of the country.

by Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief



Ignited Minds

Divya – The Inspiring Story of Destiny and Perseverance

"When you want something, all the universe conspires to help you to achieve it".

– Paulo Coelho, author



This story of this unsung hero is one that is close to the hearts of those associated with PreSense as well as the team in Action 2020, its partners in voluntary work. This is the story of young Divya Hemalatha Balakumaran.

Divya comes from a humble family background. She lost both her parents at a very tender age of 4 years. Her grandparents took Divya under their care and nurtured her growth with their meagre pension. Divya excelled in studies winning a scholarship that took care of her studies.

However, her extended family was a constant source of irritation leading to frequent quarrels and disputes which impacted her emotionally. So, her grandparents moved to another village

to avoid the challenges posed by the quarrelsome family.

Divya continued to excel in the new school and won scholarships to pursue her final two years in school, even though she lost her grandmother in the course of her schooling. She remembers with gratitude the support her young friends extended to get her hand-me-down text books and other aids for her schooling.

Divya went on to pursue the engineering course for graduation, after securing the top score in the district. Not able to afford the fees for the course, Divya had approached the banks for educational loan. The banks stipulated stiff conditions such as disbursing the loan as reimbursement and not as advance credit. It was during this challenging period that Action 2020 came to her rescue, adopting her as their ward. Incidentally, the Education Loan Task Force (ELTF – one of the initiatives of PreSense) was formed as a fallout of the ordeals experienced by Divya while seeking education loan from a bank. The efforts of well-wishers from Action2020 Team and Team Everest helped overcome the hurdles and secured the loan for Divya so that she could pursue her engineering course uninterrupted. ELTF nominated Lakshmi Radhakrishnan, an educationist as mentor and counsellor for Divya during her days as student.

During her college days, another tragedy struck Divya when she lost her grandfather who was her only family supporter. Action 2020 team continued to stand by her as her foster family. Divya soon took up a part-time job even while studying, in order to meet her basic daily expenses for sustenance.



She completed her engineering course with a university rank and was employed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), an Information Technology Consulting Company. Combating several life challenges on a relay basis left her emotionally fatigued by then, but with the support of her colleagues and friends, she overcame her emotional turmoil. Divya is now deputed by her company to work in Amsterdam, Netherlands in Europe. It is a matter of pride to mention that her team won an award for excellence from her company recently. Divya had earlier won several awards from TCS for excellence in her individual capacity.

Divya had nurtured a dream to explore the world and interact with different types of people. She is grateful that her current job gives her that opportunity. She is also grateful that her other dream of having a circle of family is accomplished in her circle of innumerable friends and people who care for her.

Today, she endeavours to do her bit to give back to the society. She says her life principle is simple and uncomplicated – to continue to evolve as a good person, live happily, and spread that happiness and love to others.

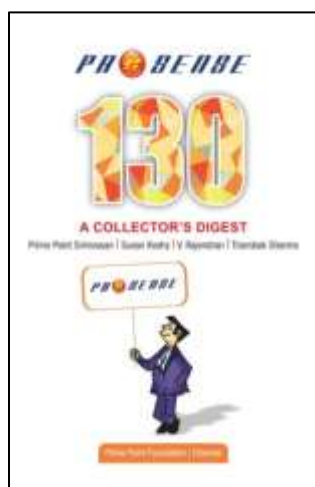
She has repaid the entire Education Loan availed from the Bank ahead of time and has become a role model for all Education Loan borrowers.

Her advice to the emerging generation of youngsters is:

"Accept your life as it is and do not regret over it. Forgive yourself and believe in yourself. You are very strong irrespective of what you are, where you are and in whatever circumstances you are in life. Do not let anything or anyone make you believe otherwise. The past is a bygone. Live in the present moment, for the present is more important as it is there before you to live it out, and these little moments will be the ones you will cherish later. Love everyone around you. Life is short, and people are valuable. Care for them."

By Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief

Coming Soon! PreSense 130 – A Collector's Digest



PreSense is pleased to announce that the third printed edition of the Digest titled 'PreSense 130' will be released shortly. We will announce the date of release of this Digest in our site www.corpezine.com.

The Digest will be released as a hard copy and will also be available in downloadable PDF format, after release.

This edition will include select articles published by us in the first 130 editions and will be supplementary to the earlier released Digest, PreSense 100+.

Editorial Team



Nation

DiJAI Workshop and Inauguration of Students' Forum at Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu



Dr Santhosh Babu, IAS - inaugural address

In pursuit of one of its defined objectives, Digital Journalists' Association of India (DiJAI) endeavours to encourage and motivate youngsters interested in digital journalism, especially the student community from semi-urban and rural areas. DiJAI had one such opportunity when it organised a one-day workshop on Digital Journalism at the invitation of the management of AAA College of Engineering and Technology, located in a small village called Aamathur on the Viruthunagar-Sivakasi Highway in Tamil Nadu State on 24th March 2018. About 350 students from 8 neighbouring colleges attended the workshop.

Mr K. Srinivasan, Founder Chairman of Digital Journalists Association of India and Managing Editor of your e-magazine PreSense, welcomed the gathering and gave an overview about DiJAI. He also announced the intention of starting a students' chapter of DiJAI in AAA College, with the active participation of interested students.

Dr D. Santhosh Babu, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation and Officer on Special Duty of the Chief Minister's Special Cell, rendered an inspiring inaugural address, briefly reminiscing on his experiences as senior officer in the government cadre. He also emphasised the importance of ethics in personal life and work, including digital journalism.

In his keynote address, Mr P. Ganesan, Managing Director, Vinayaga Sony Fireworks and Correspondent of AAA College gave a motivating talk, while Ms Sangeeta Dua, a popular television anchor in USA gave her special address from USA on skype. She talked about the emerging trends in digital journalism across the world. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by the College Principal, Mr Arulmozhi.

The thematic sessions started after a brief tea break. Mr K. Srinivasan introduced the concept of digital journalism, its relevance and growing importance. Ms Susan Koshy, Editor-in-Chief of PreSense took the participants through the process of writing, editing and ethics in journalistic writing. Mr V Rajendran, Editor, PreSense, Advocate and expert on cyber laws, spoke about the cyber law relating to digital journalism. He cited examples from decided cases and other litigations on journalism especially relating to social media. Mr R Nurulla, a senior Tamil journalist and Vice-President, DiJAI, in his chaste and inimitable stage oratory, took the audience through two hilarious sessions of anecdotes relating to



journalism, language and style of presentation, travelling down the memory lane of Tamil journalism.

The post-lunch sessions were handled by Mr Vinoth Poovalingam, CEO, Hocalwire, Delhi on "Trends in Digital Journalism" and Ms. Vidyashree Dharmaraj, Editor-in-Chief, Covai Post, Coimbatore on "Challenges in Digital Journalism". Both shared their sessions through tele-conferencing.

Towards the conclusion of the day-long sessions, on DiJAI's invitation, 47 students representing 8 Colleges of the District came forward to be part of the Students' Forum of DiJAI. Two student coordinators and a faculty co-ordinator were selected to handle the responsibility of taking the chapter forward with handholding support by DiJAI office-bearers during the nascent stage. AAA College of Engineering will be the nodal Institution for Virudhunagar District.



DiJAI Students Forum at Sivakasi Covering 8 Colleges

The meeting concluded with the national anthem, and lots of pleasant memories and action plans in place.

The entire proceedings were webcast live through YouTube Channel. The videos of the workshop may be accessed from the link.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-PiuI1fNadqpr00OqfVaZw?view_as=subscriber

By V. Rajendran, Editor

To get updated videos on the seminars and events organised by Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI), please subscribe to the YouTube Channel. Please click the link below and subscribe. If prompted, please login with you gmail id.

<https://goo.gl/Zh9mHe>



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