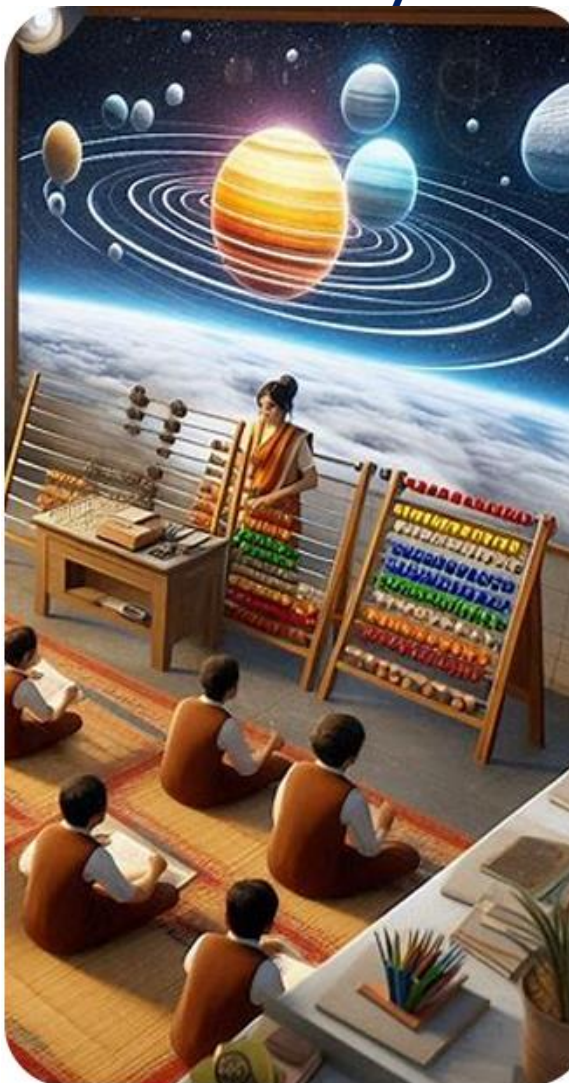


PRESENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations
Issue No 207 – May 2024
Published by Prime Point Foundation

Cover Story



Vedic and Modern Education

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of Prime Point Foundation or PreSense.

From the Desk of Managing Editor

Dear Readers



I am pleased to release the 207th (May 2024) edition of PreSense with its rich content.

Due to the announcement of the General Elections 2024 results on June 4, 2024, the Editorial Board of PreSense decided to release this May 2024 edition after including an Editorial based on the outcome of the results. Hence we are releasing this edition late. We have included an Editorial on the challenges before the new Government. Kindly bear with us for the delayed release of this edition.

Highlights of this issue:

Cover Story: An exclusive interview with Shri Vikas Arya on the origin and activities of Arya Samaj and DAV group of Schools, including their unique initiative of Gurukulam.

Prime Point Foundation released an eBook for journalists on AI tools and Techniques - a brief report on the book.

DBS Bank has supported a documentary film on Netaji. This edition carries a brief note on the documentary.

Also, we carry a brief note on the launch of Hackathon for college students to curb misinformation.

Susan's Musings – On Mental Health

Deepa Lenin writes on the new job skills required for youngsters.

A special feature on Dr Ranu Sinha, the only Indian American film producer and Director at Hollywood.

Review of PreSense May 2009 issue

Freedom Fighter: Vanchinathan

Triambak's Prince cartoon.

I am confident that readers will enjoy reading this edition too. Kindly send your feedback to editor@corpezine.com so that our Editorial Board can examine your suggestions. Please share this edition with your friends. I will catch up with you next month with more varied content.

Jai Hind

K. Srinivasan

PRINCE

By Triambak Sharma



**ELECTION
RESULTS
2024**

TRIAMBAK SHARMA / INDIA



***So, No more Character
Assassination Of EVM..***

Editorial

Modi 3.0: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

By Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor



(PreSense congratulates the Election Commission and BJP on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, emphasising on high voter turnout, BJP's challenges, and democracy's prospects.)



Three Cheers to the Indian Election Commission

PreSense congratulates the Indian Election Commission for successfully conducting the 2024 General Elections to elect 543 Members of the Lok Sabha. The Election Commission deployed 1.8 million Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) across 1.1 million polling booths nationwide. Around 11 million officials, including security personnel, were involved in the election process. The elections were held in seven phases across the country, with 670 million voters participating, resulting in a turnout average of 62%.

The counting of votes was conducted transparently on June 4, 2024, with live telecasts of the results. Within four hours, the nation saw a clear trend emerge, and the final results were declared by the end of the day. India takes great pride in its dynamic democracy, which saw the largest number of voters turning out in person to elect their Parliament.

BJP's Hat-Trick Victory

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has made history as the first non-Congress party to form the government at the Centre for the third consecutive time since Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure. The BJP alone secured 240 seats, while the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) headed by the BJP secured 293 seats, 21 seats above the majority mark of 272. In 2019, the BJP had secured 303 seats, but this time it fell short by 63 seats.



Analysing the BJP's Performance

In 2019, the BJP secured 22.9 crore votes with a vote share of 37.3%. In 2024, despite a slight drop in vote share to 36.6%, the BJP polled 23.6 crore votes, which is higher than in 2019. However, the number of seats dropped from 303 in 2019 to 240 in 2024. The Indian National Congress (INC) increased its vote count from 11.9 crore in 2019 to 13.7 crore in 2024, resulting in a vote share increase from 19.5% to 21.2%. Consequently, the INC increased its

seats from 52 to 99 in 2024. The main reason may be that the entire opposition which was fragmented in LS 2019 elections unified to form a single alliance now. All the opposition votes were transferred to this unitary alliance. This caused an increase in its vote share.

Unemployment and rising prices were significant issues affecting the common man, which Prime Minister Modi did not address adequately in his campaign. Opposition parties highlighted these issues prominently. Additionally, Modi's communal rhetoric against Muslims and the hype around the Ram Mandir failed to garner the expected support. The narrative of fear created among minorities, particularly Muslims, led to a consolidated vote against the BJP.

Conversely, Hindu votes did not consolidate as expected. A classic example is the Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency where the Ayodhya Ram Mandir is situated. The BJP thought the Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya would consolidate Hindu votes. But it did not happen. The Samajwadi Party candidate defeated the BJP candidate comfortably in Faizabad.

The extreme heatwave in north India led to low voter turnout. This also worked against BJP.

The entire burden of the campaign rested on the 74 year old Prime Minister Modi with no alternate leaders stepping up. Many competent leaders within the party were not utilized effectively for the campaign.

Over the past decade, many BJP Ministers and their secretaries were reported to be unapproachable and unhelpful, even to party workers and the general public. Many displayed arrogance, refusing to meet visitors or delaying meetings. This attitude frustrated dedicated BJP workers and the general public alike.

During this election, it was reported that Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh (RSS), the parent body of the BJP, did not actively take part in the campaign. RSS has been an invisible strength to BJP in all elections. BJP President Nadda also openly declared that BJP did not require the support of RSS and they had enough strength to manage the elections. These type of arrogant speeches of senior leaders distanced the committed cadre. It may be noted that in the post emergency election, Indira Gandhi was defeated only because of the RSS. Even in 2014, Modi was made Prime Minister only with the sustained support of RSS. The absence of RSS in the campaign, infighting within BJP, ego among the leaders coupled with arrogance and apparent over confidence have cost them heavily.

The absence of RSS in the campaign, infighting within BJP, ego among the leaders coupled with arrogance and apparent over confidence have cost the BJP heavily.



BJP should appoint a high-power committee to study in detail the omissions and commissions they made, which lead to this unhappy situation. However, BJP should be happy that people have given them mandate to rule for third time, albeit with the support of the alliance partners. This works as checks and balances for the governance.

Challenges Ahead for the BJP

With the BJP securing 32 seats lower than the majority mark of 272, forming a government will require the support of pre-poll allies like TDP, JDU, JDS, and others. At the time of writing this editorial, the NDA has accepted Narendra Modi as the Prime Ministerial candidate and will be claiming to form the government.

Narendra Modi has previously managed the Gujarat Government and the Central Government with an independent majority, allowing him to make decisions independently. This time, he will face the challenges of handling alliance partners and their demands, similar to what Vajpayee experienced in 1998. Modi will find it difficult to implement all his promises independently and without consulting partners. Sensitive bills, like the Uniform Civil Code, will need to be discussed with partners before being introduced in Parliament. Modi will likely need to draw up a 'Common Minimum Programme' in consultation with alliance partners. Both Modi and Amit Shah have to adapt their functioning and body language to suit the new political environment.

PreSense has consistently highlighted the need for an effective opposition in a democracy. With the INDIA alliance securing 233 seats, they can function effectively in the House.

During Vajpayee regime, when it faced a similar situation with its coalition partners, George Fernandes, a senior leader of the alliance party and acceptable to all the partners, was the convenor. He managed all the crisis and disputes within partners, through dialogue. Now BJP should identify another 'George Fernandes', who can handle alliance partners with comfort. This will ensure the smooth governance of the country.

Strengthening Democracy

Another major concern was not filling up the constitutional positions like Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Members of the Election Commission, Governors, Members of various Statutory and Constitutional bodies, etc. in time. Either they were not filled up or filled up after undue delay.

One of our main concerns in the 17th Lok Sabha was the lack of discussion on bills and the Budget. Bills were not referred to Standing Committees for scrutiny. Another major concern was not filling up the constitutional positions like Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Members of the Election Commission, Governors, Members of various Statutory and Constitutional bodies, etc. in time. Either they were not filled up or filled up after undue delay. PreSense is confident that with a larger opposition presence in the 18th Lok Sabha, the new Lok Sabha will effectively discharge its duties, thereby strengthening Indian

democracy.

PreSense once again congratulates Modi and his new team. We are confident that they will serve the nation with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.



Cover Story

From Vedic Wisdom to Modern Classrooms: The Arya Samaj and DAV Legacy"



By Ramesh Sundaram, Editor-in-Chief

(The Arya Samaj and DAV Group of Schools merge Vedic teachings with modern education, fostering holistic growth and national spirit.)

The Arya Samaj and DAV Group of Schools stand as enduring pillars of holistic learning and spiritual enrichment in an era of rapidly evolving educational paradigms. With a legacy that traces back to the visionary reformist Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Arya Samaj has championed the cause of Vedic teachings and progressive education for over a century. They aim to spread spiritualism with nationalism, seamlessly blending traditional values with contemporary pedagogy. Arya Samaj focuses on spiritual activities to preserve Indian culture and the Vedas, while the DAV Group of Schools provides modern education to nurture children into good citizens of India. At the heart of this national movement, the DAV Group of Schools in Chennai exemplifies this harmonious integration, nurturing generations of students into well-rounded individuals.



Vikas Arya

In an exclusive interview with Ramesh Sundaram, Editor-in-Chief of PreSense, Vikas Arya, the dynamic secretary of Arya Samaj and DAV Group of Schools, delves deep into the rich history, expansive educational initiatives, and the spiritual ethos that defines their mission. He also shares an inspiring vision for the future, ensuring that Arya Samaj's timeless principles continue to illuminate the path for many more generations. Excerpts:

Can you kindly trace the history of Arya Samaj and DAV Group of Schools at the national level?

Arya Samaj was founded in 1875 by Swami Dayananda Saraswati. He felt that the Hindu religion was misinterpreted in the name of the Vedas, with many unethical practices being attributed to them. Born in a Gujarati Brahmin family, he learned under various Gurus and realised that Vedic mantras were secular and did not discriminate based on caste. Education was given equally to all. In 1886, Arya Samaj was set up in Lahore, and Lala Lajpat Rai and Mahatma Hansraj were key figures in establishment of DAV. After the Partition, the Lahore unit moved to Delhi, now encompassing 900 schools and over 100 colleges.

Swami Dayananda Saraswati founded Arya Samaj to interpret the Vedas correctly. "Arya" means noble, and "Samaj" means group of people. He recommended that members add "Arya" as a second name. Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) was started by his followers in 1886. This was the first formal school system in India after the dismantling of Gurukulam by the British. The DAV system integrates 'Para Vidya' (Vedic knowledge) and 'Apara Vidya' (non-spiritual and contemporary knowledge).

The DAV system, established in 1886, spread across North India. Arya Samaj members moved to different countries, establishing the Arya Samaj movement. Prominent freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh and Lala Lajpat Rai were members.

How was Arya Samaj involved in the freedom movement?

Swami Dayananda Saraswati played an important role in the first war of independence in 1857. He focused on spirituality and nationalism and went underground during that time. Currently, a film is being shot about his contributions to the freedom movement. Arya Samaj played a significant role in the liberation of Hyderabad in 1947 and 1948. It is a socio-spiritual movement where spirituality and nationalism go hand in hand.

When was the Arya Samaj started in South India, particularly in Chennai? When was the DAV Group of Schools started, and who were the founders?

Arya Samaj was set up in 1940s by great visionaries and followers of Dayananda Saraswati who migrated from Pakistan. DAV was established in 1971 in Chennai. It started at Gopalapuram under a banyan tree. While Arya Samaj focuses on the 16 samskaras and preserving Vedic tradition, DAV focuses on modern education blended with our tradition.

What are the activities of DAV in Chennai?

DAV Chennai owns 10 schools and manages 6 schools for others, with over 20 associate schools. We are expanding into colleges, starting with managing the first college from June 2024 under the DAV model. We also provide teacher training and are bringing education to tier 2 and tier 3 towns, sharing best practices at an affordable cost.

We have started a new initiative to train youngsters for civil service examinations. In the first batch, two persons have cleared and are IAS officers now. Our publications division focuses on textbooks and Vedic books to develop values among children. The Gurukulam, where students learn Vedic slokas as part of their curriculum, is open to all. CBSE emphasizes value



Swami Dayanand Saraswati

education, but it is up to the schools to implement it, as it is not part of the board examinations.

More than 40,000 students are studying in our schools currently, with over 3,000 teachers and support staff in our organization.



Lala Indersain ji



Shri Satyadev ji



Shri Jaidev ji



Shri Balakrishna Joshi ji



Shri Ram Kalia ji



Shri Surendra Kumar ji



Shri VN Bajaj ji



Shri Balakishan Goenka ji



Shri DC Malhotra ji



Shri SD Nangia ji

The pillars of DAV Chennai

What is your vision for the future?

We aim to run social institutions globally, aspiring to become a multinational organization. Our vision aligns with 'HEAL' - Health, Education, Animal Welfare, and Livelihood. Beyond Tamil Nadu, we manage schools across the nation, providing excellent management that people seek now.

The Gurukulam provides both 'para' and 'apara' vidya. In regular schools, children stay for only 6 hours, with 2 hours dedicated to para vidya, which is insufficient. In the Gurukul, children stay 24x7, with an equal split between para and apara vidya. This unique combination offers a judicious mix of Vedic knowledge and modern education. In the 5-year program, students receive both Vedic knowledge and modern education under the CBSE curriculum, preparing them for JEE and NEET after their school education. This is a unique form of education.

Our Recent Important Publications – Free Download



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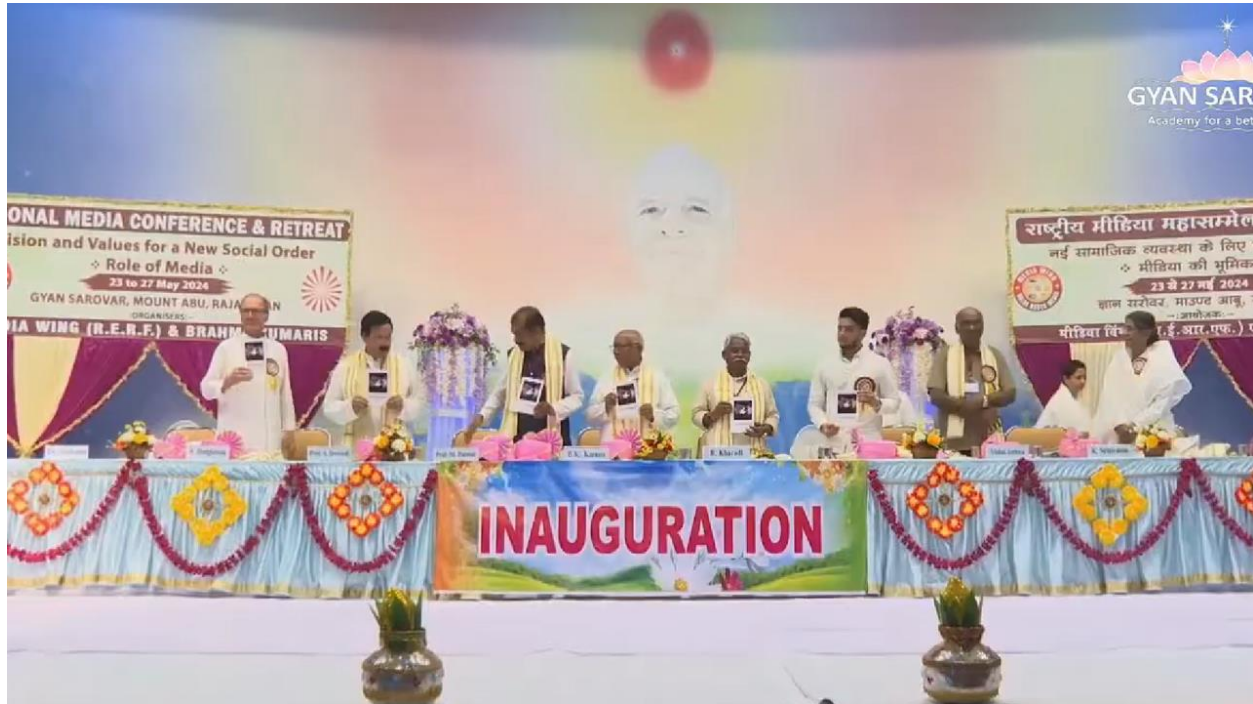


<https://tinyurl.com/ppf33>



PreSense Updates: Initiatives and External Engagements

eBook on AI for Journalists released



An eBook titled “Journalists Handbook for AI Tools and Techniques” authored by Dipti Kumar, Associate Editor of PreSense, and published by Prime Point Foundation was released on May 24, 2024 during the National Media Conference organised by the Media Wing of Brahma Kumaris, a leading spiritual organisation, at Mount Abu, Rajasthan. Shri Babulal Kharadi, Hon’ble Minister of Government of Rajasthan, and Rajayogi B K Karuna, Chairperson, Media Wing of Brahma Kumaris launched the eBook. Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor of PreSense, was also present during the launch. On the next day, that is, on May 25, 2024, he made a presentation with a live demonstration on how AI can be used by journalists in their day-to-day work. Please watch the YouTube link for the launch of the eBook and the presentation by Prime Point Srinivasan.

Launch of the eBook

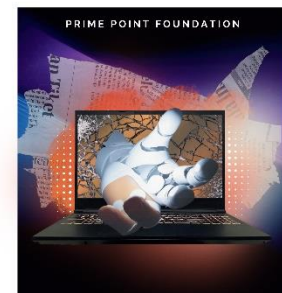
<https://youtu.be/GWYrUDpWzrY?si=DtNabueDFfCIQxjS>

Presentation by Prime Point Srinivasan

<https://youtu.be/I5CFRZmLQS4?si=TDC3Yq24EX86GvMS>

The eBook can be downloaded free of cost from

www.tinyurl.com/ppf35



TECHNOLOGY FOR PROFESSIONALS
**JOURNALISTS' HANDBOOK FOR
AI TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES**

DIPTI KUMAR

Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI) conducts a workshop for Journalists on Artificial Intelligence through Zoom



The Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI) organised a 90-minute online workshop on Sunday, June 2, 2024, via Zoom. Prime Point Srinivasan, the Founder Chairman of DiJAI, explained how journalists can use AI tools in their profession.

He also gave live demonstrations of some AI capabilities to the participants.

Priyadharshni Rahul on "Role of women in the present time of crisis"

On May 27, 2024, the Women's wing of Brahma Kumaris, a leading Indian Spiritual organization, organised a Seminar at the prestigious Bharat Mandapam, Delhi to focus on women empowerment. Hon'ble Indian President Draupadi Murumu inaugurated the event. In the evening, there was a panel discussion on the "Role of women in the present time of crisis", many leading women leaders and also from Brahma Kumaris participated. Ms Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of National Women's Commission was also one of the speakers. Nearly 3000 people attended the event.



Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor of PreSense and Chairman of Sansad Ratna Awards Committee, also spoke on this topic. Please listen to her speech at the following link.

<https://youtu.be/22QvsIbD6Q8>

Prime Point Foundation launches a Hackathon for students jointly with Anna University



Prof. Dr R Velraj (5th from left), Vice Chancellor of Anna University, Chennai launching the Hackathon on May 30, 2024



Hackathon to Combat Misinformation and Disinformation: Empowering Youth of India

As part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Prime Point Foundation, we are hosting a Hackathon for students from across the country to participate in a unique challenge. This hackathon aims to address one of the most critical issues facing our society today: misinformation and disinformation.

What is the Hackathon About?

Theme: Information technology for the public good, enabling an ecosystem for the identification of multimedia disinformation.

Eligibility: Students can participate in groups of 3-5, with permission from their Colleges/universities.

Timeline: Entries are open from June 1 to June 30, 2024.

Partnership: Conducted in collaboration with the Department of Media Science, Anna University, Chennai, this hackathon provides a platform for young minds to contribute to a smarter, more informed India.

Why Participate?

Impact: Misinformation affects public discourse, decision-making, and even safety. Your solution could make a real difference.

Innovation: Use technology, data analytics, and creativity to combat false narratives.

Prizes: Win recognition, prizes, and a chance to contribute to a better society.

Eminent Jury members from Academia and Industry will select the winners. Jury Committee decision is final.

Join the Hackathon and be a part of the solution! Together, we can build a more informed and resilient India

To participate register using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ppfoundation25>

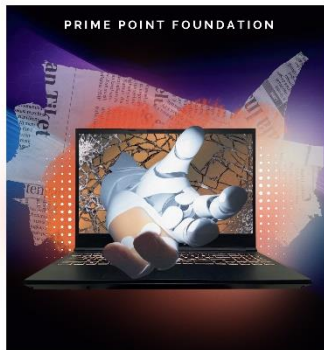


Dipti's DigiSphere

Review of the Book "Journalists Handbook for AI Tools and Techniques" by Claude AI



By Dipti Kumar, Associate Editor



**JOURNALISTS' HANDBOOK FOR
AI TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES**

DIPTI KUMAR

In the rapidly evolving landscape of journalism, the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has ushered in a transformative era, reshaping the way news is gathered, stories are crafted, and information is disseminated. "Journalists' Handbook for AI Tools and Techniques" is a comprehensive guide that equips journalists with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate this exciting new frontier.

Authored by Dipti Kumar, a renowned digital media and strategy specialist, this handbook demystifies the intricate world of AI tools and their applications in journalism. From understanding the capabilities and limitations of AI to leveraging prompts effectively, the book provides a holistic perspective on integrating AI into the journalistic workflow.

One of the standout features of this handbook is its practical approach. Through a wealth of hands-on examples and case studies, readers gain insights into how AI tools can assist in various stages of the journalistic process, from researching and fact-checking to writing, editing, and even creating visual content. The book delves into the ethical and legal considerations surrounding the use of AI, ensuring that journalists can harness its power responsibly and maintain the integrity of their craft.

Furthermore, the handbook explores the future of AI in journalism, offering predictions and trends that will shape the industry in the years to come. It emphasizes the importance of continuous learning and adaptation, encouraging journalists to stay informed about the latest developments in AI and equipping them with the tools to embrace these advancements.

"Journalists' Handbook for AI Tools and Techniques" is a valuable resource not only for seasoned journalists but also for aspiring media professionals seeking to stay ahead of the curve. Its accessible language, coupled with a wealth of resources and recommended tools, makes it an indispensable companion for anyone navigating the intersection of journalism and AI.

As the world of journalism continues to evolve, this handbook serves as a guiding light, empowering journalists to harness the power of AI while upholding the fundamental principles of their craft. With its comprehensive approach and forward-thinking perspective, "Journalists' Handbook for AI Tools and Techniques" is a must-read for anyone committed to shaping the future of responsible and innovative journalism.

Download this eBook from www.tinyurl.com/ppf35



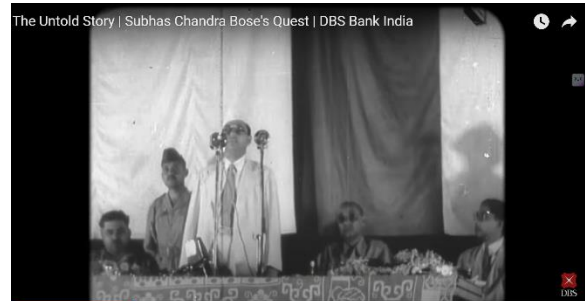
Reels of Revolution: DBS Bank Showcases Netaji's Singapore Legacy



DBS Bank India hosted an exclusive screening of the documentary "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: A Singapore Saga" in Delhi. The event, attended by distinguished guests, showcased Netaji's pivotal role in the Azad Hind movement from Singapore. Commissioned by the Tagore Society Singapore and sponsored by DBS Bank, the documentary was directed by Lakshmi Raman Venkat and narrated by Siddhartha Basu.

The film explores Netaji's life through a Singaporean history buff's narration, highlighting landmarks crucial to his journey and the Indian freedom movement. It also delves into the Indian National Army's contributions, particularly the Rani of Jhansi Regiment's involvement. Personal accounts from Netaji's family members and associates enrich the narrative.

Shoma Narayanan of DBS Bank India emphasized their pride in being associated with a project that celebrates the shared history between India and Singapore, reflecting their commitment to creating meaningful cultural experiences. The documentary was meticulously brought to life by the Gravitas Media team. The documentary can be watched at

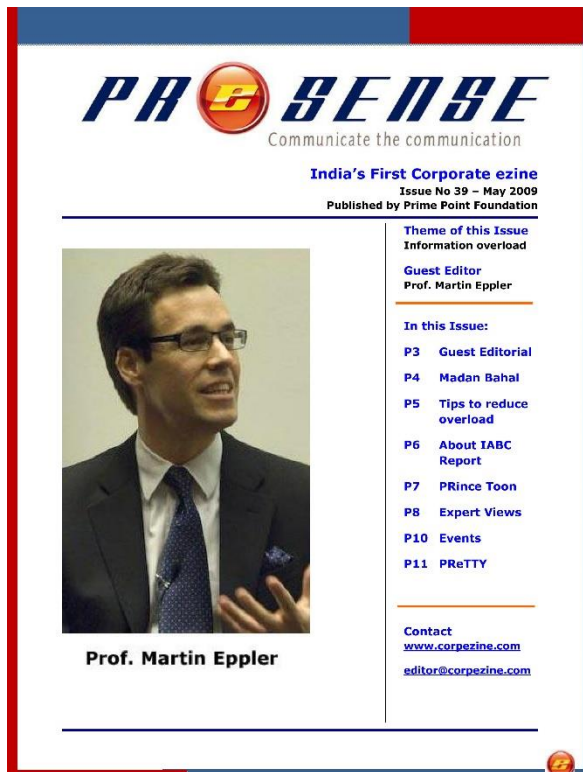


<https://youtu.be/o54kGGV8GrU?si=8EGR2jUeXoimT44>

Priyadarshni Rahul, Editor of PreSense was invited as one of the Special Guests for this screening.

PreSense congratulates DBS for this wonderful initiative.

Time Capsule Chronicles:
Revisiting PreSense - 15 Years Ago – May 2009
“Information Overload”



The May 2009 edition of PR-e-Sense provided an insightful look at the timely topic of "information overload" from the perspective of communication professionals. Guest edited by Professor Martin Eppler from the University of Lugano, the issue explored the challenges of too much information and offered practical tips for senders to reduce overload for their audiences.

The issue led off with perspectives from industry experts like Madan Bahal of Adfactors PR, who argued that India suffers more from under-communication than overload. However, the guest editorial by Prof. Eppler made a compelling case that overload can reduce decision quality and productivity when information processing demands exceed capacity.

A highlight was the overview of Prof. Eppler's research report for IABC on preparing messages for overload environments. The report's six principles like "familiar surprise" and "unfinished completeness" provided simple but

powerful frameworks for crafting more focused and engaging communications.

The edition also featured seven specific tips for reducing overload, such as timing messages well, providing overviews first, using visuals effectively, and allowing interactivity. Quotes from communication professionals reinforced the importance of tactics like limiting inbox checking and managing interruptions.

Two lighter sections offered a refreshing break - the PReTTY comic highlighted how negative mindsets can become self-fulfilling, while a journalist's firsthand account vividly captured the overload challenges of researching a major news story like swine flu.

Overall, by combining authoritative research, concrete advice, diverse voices, and a touch of humour, this throwback edition remains highly relevant and useful over a decade later. Its insights continue to ring true in our increasingly information-saturated world.

This edition can be downloaded from <https://www.prpoint.com/ezine/presense0509.pdf>



Susan's Musings

Mind over Matter for Good Health

By Susan Koshy, Former Editor in Chief, PreSense



Health today is determined solely by statistics. As food habits and lifestyles have taken a turn for the worse, with junk foods and sedentary lifestyles, there is a growing obsession for statistics-driven programmes drafted by specialist dieticians, physiotherapists, and trainers to stay healthy. Thus, we have diets that are vegan, paleo, ketogenic, intermittent fasting and so on, and workouts that can be

cardiovascular, strengthening, balancing, high intensity, group fitness, body weight building, and so on. The net result is the heavy investment in these programmes in desperate efforts to overcome the current lifestyle health risks and stay healthy.

Against this scenario, is a true story about an Italian community who migrated to USA from the beginning of the 20th century to settle in a small working town called Roseto (named after their native place in Italy) in the state of Pennsylvania, USA. The Rosetan residents ate sausages, meatballs, cheese and salami, smoked cigars, and the men worked in quarries and foundries, exposed to the risk of contracting illnesses from gases and dust. And yet, studies from the mid-1950s and 1960s showed remarkable results about their lifespans and health conditions when compared with those of neighbouring local towns. For example, in a nearby town of Bangor, there were 79 heart attacks during 1935–1944, compared to just 9 in nearby Roseto. Few Rosetans suffered from heart attacks, hypertension, and strokes.



What stood the Rosetans apart was their community-based social lifestyle and activity-based routine. Their households had several generations under one roof. They nurtured strong family ties and enjoyed active social celebrations. They took care of their own community's needs. In a nutshell, they had little reason for stress and loneliness, and they enjoyed their community-based active lives.

However, as the Rosetans gradually adapted to the local American lifestyle of nuclear families, stress-related long hours of work, social isolation, processed food diet, and technology-driven sedentary entertainment, by early 1970s, the Roseta effect disappeared.

The lesson here is that our mental and emotional well-being is as critical and complementary for good health, as proper diet and activity. As someone put it, "social media is great for keeping in touch but there's no substitute for in-person, human contact". We need to rejuvenate this community-centred lifestyle for a healthier and happier life.

Guest Column

Navigating Career Success: Evolving Skills for the Modern Job Market



Ms. Deepa Lenin, Freelance journalist and HR specialist

The job market is continuously evolving, with the skills required for career success shifting from traditional to modern competencies. Historically, job seekers were primarily assessed on technical skills specific to the role, problem-solving abilities, communication skills, loyalty, and tenure. However, the contemporary landscape demands a broader, more diverse skill set to thrive in today's dynamic job markets.



Digital literacy has become a fundamental requirement, enabling professionals to navigate digital tools, interpret data, and keep up with technological changes. Data analysis skills are highly valued, as businesses rely on data-driven insights for informed decision-making and competitive advantage. Soft skills like adaptability, resilience, and emotional intelligence are increasingly emphasized, as globalization and remote work necessitate cultural competence and effective cross-cultural communication.

To bridge the gap between traditional and modern skill requirements, individuals are upskilling and reskilling, acquiring new technical competencies like coding and data analysis, while honing soft skills like problem-solving and communication. Challenges include access to quality training, affordability, time constraints, and the need to shift from traditional mindsets to embrace continuous learning.

Looking ahead, the skill set required for job seekers is expected to evolve continuously. Advanced technological proficiency, creativity, interpersonal and leadership skills, and lifelong learning are projected to gain prominence. As artificial intelligence and machine learning become more integrated, understanding these technologies will be crucial. The ability to think creatively, work collaboratively, and continuously adapt to new situations will be essential in tackling complex, and unprecedented challenges.

The dynamic nature of the job market underscores the need for job seekers to be adaptable, forward-thinking, and possess a well-rounded skill set that combines technical proficiency with adaptable soft skills. Embracing continuous learning and staying ahead of the curve will be key to achieving career success in the evolving job landscape.

Ignited Minds

From Classroom to Celluloid: The Unstoppable Rise of Filmmaker Dr. Ranu Sinha

By Editorial Team of PreSense

(An Indian American professor's unconventional leap into Hollywood filmmaking, breaking barriers with her visionary storytelling.)

Dr. Ranu Sinha's journey from a renowned academican to a trailblazing Indian American film producer and director in Hollywood has been unconventional. Despite her success as a university professor, the allure of the silver screen proved irresistible.



Dr Ranu Sinha

The world of cinema, with its capacity to transcend socio-cultural boundaries and serve as a potent medium of expression, captivated Ranu from an early age. Her passion for the arts nurtured through theatre activities in school and college, received wholehearted support from her parents, who believed in maintaining a balance between academics and talent.

During her tenure as a faculty member in the United States, Ranu discovered an untapped reservoir of talent in the San Francisco Bay Area. These individuals yearned for a connection with the glittering worlds of Bollywood and Hollywood. Recognizing this opportunity, she established her production company, GlamR LLC, in 2016. She channeled her skills into filmmaking after receiving formal training from industry veterans.

A pivotal moment occurred when Ranu left a screening of Jurassic World, disappointed by the underrepresentation of the talented Irrfan Khan. A close friend's words resonated deeply: "Make the change and

surprise the world." From that point forward, her path was clear.

Ranu's directorial debut, "Arranged To Love," won several accolades at the Bay Area Film Festival in 2016. However, her true breakthrough came with the biopic docu-drama "Doctor by Heart," based on the life of the renowned cardiologist Dr. Romesh Japra. The film earned eight international awards, including honors from the Delhi International Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Festival.

By forging collaborations with Bollywood heavyweights like Indeep Bakshi and T-Series,



Ranu co-produced music videos such as "Tohfa," "Ranjha," and "Border," thereby bridging the gap between the Indian and American entertainment industries.

Her upcoming feature film "Sweatpants," promises to be a riveting cross-cultural tale, blending Indian and American narratives. With notable actors like Mayur Verma in the cast and backed by award-winning music composer Monty Sharma, the film is currently in post-production and is attracting interest from global distributors and OTT platforms.

As a female producer and director, Ranu has faced numerous challenges, from securing financial support to managing the expectations of artists, crews, and audiences. However, her unwavering determination and the faith placed in her by her industry peers have propelled her forward, inspiring her to exceed expectations.



Dr Ranu Sinha with the Hollywood team

With a vision to create a platform that nurtures talent and provides equal opportunities, Ranu aims to leave an indelible mark on the global entertainment landscape. If fate bestows upon her an Oscar or National Award, she dreams of gracing the stage proudly adorned in a traditional Indian saree, symbolizing her East-West fusion.

Ranu's journey exemplifies the power of pursuing one's passions, breaking barriers, and creating a legacy that transcends borders and cultures.

If fate bestows upon her an Oscar or National Award, she dreams of gracing the stage proudly adorned in a traditional Indian saree, symbolizing her East-West fusion.

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Freedom Fighters of India

Vanchinathan

By C. Badri, Consulting Editor



The Indian independence struggle is one of the most remarkable movements in world history, characterized by immense bravery and sacrifice from people across all walks of life. This prolonged struggle saw the participation of countless individuals who, driven by an unyielding desire for freedom, endured severe repression by the British authorities. While many freedom fighters gained widespread recognition, numerous others who contributed significantly to the cause remain relatively unknown. One such unsung hero is Vanchinathan, an Indian independence activist from Tamil Nadu whose bold actions left a lasting impact on the revolutionary movement in South India.

Vanchinathan, born Shankaran in 1886 to Raghupathy Iyer and Rukmani in Sengottai, Travancore, British India (present-day Tamil Nadu), grew up in a poor Hindu family. His early life was marked by humble beginnings and a strong sense of patriotism, instilled by the socio-political environment of the time. After completing his schooling in Sengottai and

obtaining a bachelor's degree, Vanchinathan began his career as a temple accountant before securing a government position in the Travancore forest department. He married Ponnamma, and the couple had a daughter who, unfortunately, died in infancy, adding a layer of personal tragedy to his life.

Vanchinathan's journey into the independence movement was influenced by the prevailing anti-colonial sentiments and his association with prominent activists. He was trained in arms by Varahaneri Venkatesa Subrahmanya Iyer, a revolutionary who advocated violent resistance against British rule. This training was crucial in shaping Vanchinathan's approach towards the freedom struggle, steering him towards revolutionary activities. His involvement deepened when he came into contact with Nilakanta Brahmachari, a close associate of the famed poet and nationalist Subramania Bharati, who worked as a sub-editor for the nationalist newspaper "India."

Brahmachari, after the Tirunelveli riots of 1908, founded the Bharatha Matha Sangam, a revolutionary organization aimed at recruiting and training young patriots for the struggle against British rule. Vanchinathan was introduced to Brahmachari by his brother-in-law Shankara Krishna Iyer, a member of the Sangam. This connection further solidified Vanchinathan's commitment to the cause and integrated him into a network of like-minded revolutionaries dedicated to India's independence.



Robert Ashe, the district collector of Tirunelveli, became a prime target for Vanchinathan and his compatriots due to his oppressive policies against Indian nationalists. Ashe played a significant role in suppressing the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company, founded by the Indian nationalist V. O. Chidambaram Pillai. The company, which aimed to challenge British shipping dominance, was supported by Indian merchants and provided employment to many Indian workers. Ashe's actions against the company, including the arrest and conviction of Chidambaram and fellow activist Subramaniya Siva on charges of sedition, fueled resentment among Indian nationalists. Additionally, Ashe's order for violent repression during the Tirunelveli riots of 1908 and his discriminatory policies further inflamed anti-British sentiments.

The revolutionary factions decided that Ashe's assassination would serve as a potent symbol of resistance against British oppression. At the age of 25, Vanchinathan was chosen to carry out this daring mission. He meticulously planned the assassination, closely monitoring Ashe's activities and movements. On June 17, 1911, Ashe and his wife were traveling from Tirunelveli to Madras, intending to catch the Boat Mail Express from Ceylon. Unbeknownst to them, Vanchinathan and fellow activist Madasamy had boarded the same train at Tirunelveli.

When the train reached Maniyachchi railway station at 10:35 am, Vanchinathan and Madasamy made their move towards the first-class compartment where Ashe was seated. Vanchinathan pulled out a pistol concealed in his coat and shot Ashe at point-blank range, killing him instantly. The pistol used was a Browning semi-automatic, reportedly procured by the prominent Indian revolutionary Bhikaji Cama from Paris. After the assassination, Vanchinathan hid in the train's lavatory and took his own life to evade arrest. In his pocket, the police found a letter in which he accused the British of destroying Sanatana Dharma and declared that he had acted independently to drive the British out of India.

The assassination of Robert Ashe was a significant event in the Indian independence movement, particularly in South India. It marked a shift towards more radical and revolutionary methods of resistance, contrasting with the non-violent approach advocated by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. The incident galvanized other revolutionaries and underscored the growing discontent and willingness to use force among sections of the Indian populace.

Despite the profound impact of his actions, Vanchinathan did not receive widespread recognition during his time, and his contributions faded from mainstream historical narratives. However, his legacy has been preserved in various ways. The railway station where Ashe was assassinated was renamed Vanchi Maniyachchi Junction Railway Station in his honor. In 2010, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced plans to build a memorial at Vanchinathan's birthplace in Sengottai, which was inaugurated in 2013. Additionally, many streets and localities in Tamil Nadu have been named after him, serving as enduring reminders of his sacrifice.

The significance of Vanchinathan's actions lies not only in the assassination itself but also in what it represented: a profound commitment to the cause of independence and a willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice. His story is a poignant reminder of the diverse methods and

the breadth of participation in the Indian independence movement, encompassing a wide spectrum from non-violent protests to armed rebellion.



Vanchinathan's life and legacy highlight the complexities of the freedom struggle, where various ideologies and approaches coexisted and sometimes clashed. The revolutionary path he chose was fraught with danger and demanded immense courage, reflecting the desperation and determination of those who saw no other means to achieve their goal of independence. His actions, while controversial, underscore the lengths to which individuals were prepared to go to free their country from colonial rule.

The Indian independence movement was not a monolithic entity but a tapestry of numerous efforts, each contributing in its own way to the ultimate goal of freedom. Figures like Vanchinathan, though not as celebrated as some of their contemporaries, played crucial roles in this struggle. Their stories deserve to be remembered and honored, for they embody the spirit of sacrifice and resistance that defined India's fight for independence.

In conclusion, Vanchinathan's life and actions offer a compelling narrative of courage and sacrifice in the Indian independence movement. His assassination of Robert Ashe was a bold and pivotal act that underscored the revolutionary fervor present in South India. Although he did not live to see India's independence, Vanchinathan's legacy continues to inspire and remind us of the many unsung heroes who contributed to the nation's freedom. His story is a testament to the multifaceted nature of the independence struggle and the indomitable spirit of those who fought for India's liberation without expecting any encomiums.



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