

PR SENSE

Spreading Positive Vibrations
Issue No. 232 – June 2026
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Cover Story



Blueprint to Transform India

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Spreading Positive Vibrations
Issue No 232 – June 2026

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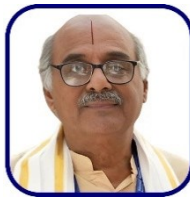
Education Loan Task Force

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From the Desk of Managing Editor

Dear Reader,



On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am pleased to present the 232nd (June 2026) edition of *PreSense*, featuring another rich array of meaningful content.

I am very happy that this month, we are also releasing this edition with an audio version.

In the past two months, a political Tsunami has been unfolding, and all the major parties are affected in one way or another. This month's editorial analyses the situation and gives a way out for political parties.

In the Cover Story, Shri M R Sivaraman, IAS ret'd., former Revenue Secretary and an authority on Indian Fiscal Policy, gives his blueprint for transforming India economically.

In the second Cover Story, we analyse the performance, challenges, and criticisms of Narendra Modi, who holds the record for the longest elected Prime Minister of India.

Other Highlights:

Prince cartoon

Exclusive interview with T G Venkatesh, former MP and Industrialist under Visionary Titan

Freedom Fighter: Lala Lajpat Rai

Review of the June 2006 edition of PreSense

A review of the performance of the 18th Lok Sabha

As always, we value your valuable feedback at editor@corpezine.com and encourage you to share *PreSense* with your network.

See you next month with more inspiring content.

Jai Hind!

K. Srinivasan

Publisher & Managing Editor

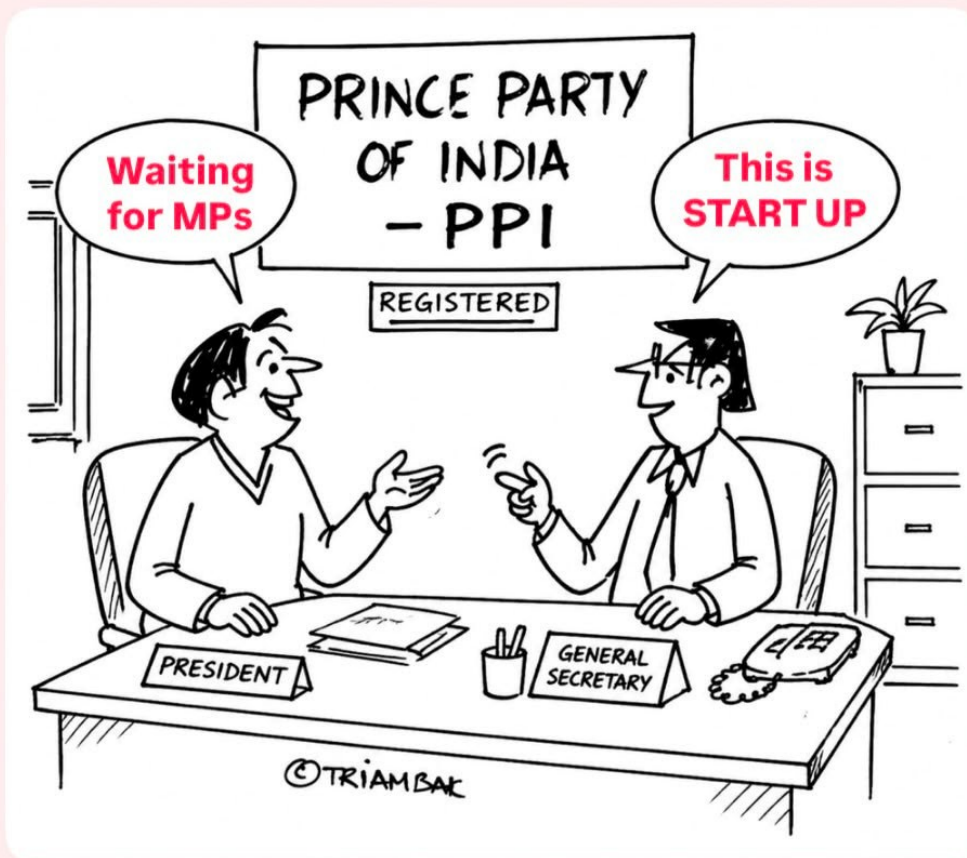
PreSense



PRince

By Triambak Sharma

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NEWS-20 rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) Lok Sabha MPs announced their merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), a just registered regional party.



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From the Desk of Managing Editor
PreSense June 2026 edition • Prime Point Srinivasan

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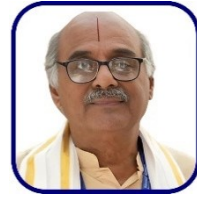
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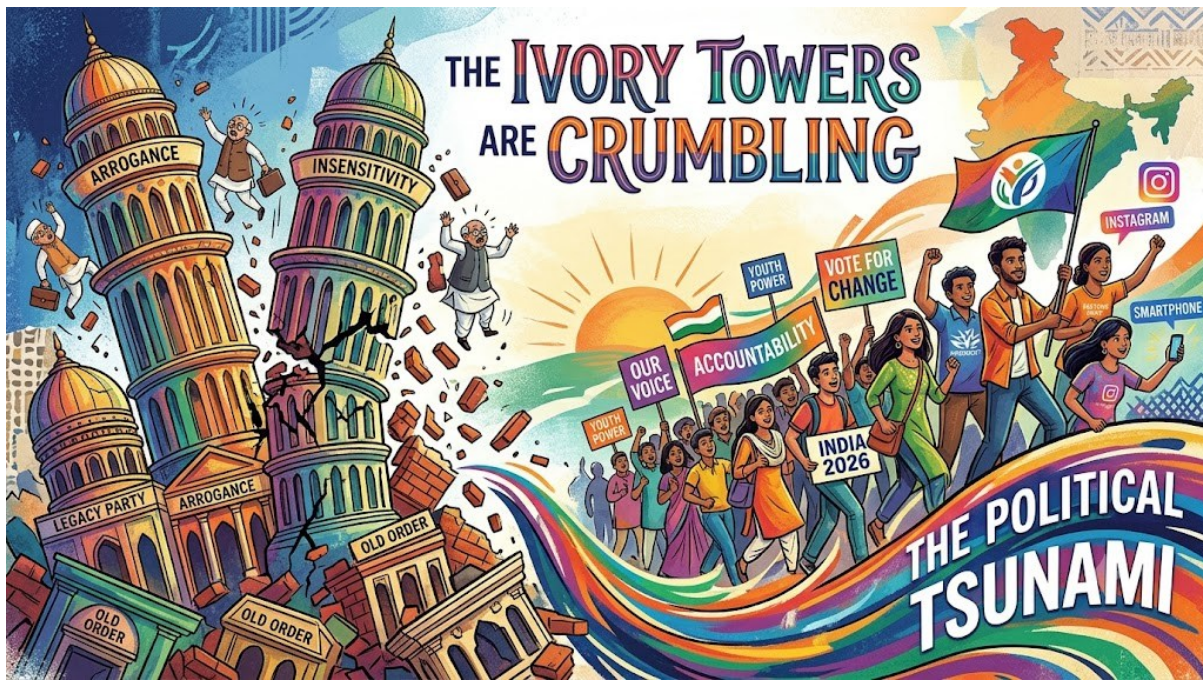
Editorial

The Ivory Towers are Crumbling: Lessons from India's 2026 Political Tsunami



By Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor

(India's 2026 elections triggered a silent revolution against political arrogance, teaching leaders that voters value accountability and youth aspirations over legacy brands and false narratives.



The Silent Revolution of 2026

Every 50 or 60 years, a major revolution takes place in people's tastes and expectations.

Let us look at the history of Tamil cinema. Until the early 1970s, cinema was only in the hands of rich studios. The heroes and heroines were very beautiful. They wore heavy makeup. The music was rich and suited only the urban people.

Then, in the early 1970s, director Bharathiraja and music director Ilayaraja changed everything. They brought cinema to the rural areas. Bharathiraja shot films in real villages. He used common people with natural looks and minimal make-up. Ilayaraja composed beautiful folk music in line with the rural background. This revolutionised the entire cinema industry across the nation.

The same type of revolution has now happened in Indian politics during the 2026 assembly elections.

In Tamil Nadu, the voters completely destroyed the 60-year-old legacy of the traditional Dravidian parties. GenZ voters totally revolutionised the system. They elected C. Joseph Vijay's TVK (Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam) to power.

The most surprising part is that people voted for candidates whom they had never even seen. These candidates did not even approach the people directly for votes. Instagram played a massive role in this election. The major political parties did not expect this at all. After 60 long years, the traditional voting pattern has changed in Tamil Nadu.

This time, people voted beyond caste and religion. They did not care about cash considerations or freebies. They only wanted a big change. Voters were prepared to accept even unknown and untested persons. They completely rejected the legendary traditional parties.

For a long time, there was an old saying: "A known devil is better than an unknown angel." In 2026, the voters completely defied this maxim. They just wanted to send the existing traditional leaders to the political wilderness.

This same logic was applied by voters in other States too. In West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the sitting Chief Ministers lost their own elections. Many senior Ministers in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal were defeated by totally unknown candidates.

However, there was an exception. In the case of Assam, the people allowed the existing government to continue. They even gave them additional seats. This shows that where there is satisfaction, people reward the rulers. But where there is frustration, the punishment is severe.

This silent revolution by the common man has sent a strong message to the voters, political parties, and the media. Our democracy has become very strong.

The Political Tsunami Across the Nation

The 2026 election results brought a huge Tsunami across the entire country. Immediately, many sitting MLAs resigned from the AIADMK and joined Vijay's TVK party. The opposition parties are now accusing Vijay of horse-trading.

In the East, a big shake-up happened. 20 MPs of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) broke away. To avoid the anti-defection law, they joined an unknown registered party called the NCPI. Now, they are supporting the NDA group in the Lok Sabha. Some Rajya Sabha MPs of the TMC have also resigned.

In the West, the situation is similar. It is reported that some MPs of Shiv Sena (UBT) are crossing over to the Shiv Sena (Shinde) group to join the NDA.

Even the Congress Party has changed its stand. They have walked out of the DMK alliance in Tamil Nadu to join Vijay's TVK alliance. Because of all these sudden shifts, the INDI Alliance is now in complete shambles.

Why Did This Mega Shake-Up Happen?

Political parties across the nation completely failed to understand the people's mood. Both the national and regional parties did not see the aspirations of the young generation. Probably, these traditional parties expected that they could easily win votes using the minority card, the caste card, or by giving freebies. But they were wrong.

The people simply did not tolerate the arrogance of the parties and their leaders.

Let us look at West Bengal. In the name of appeasing minority votes, Mamata Banerjee was encouraging infiltrators from Bangladesh. This resulted in great hatred among the local people.

In Kerala, the ruling CPIM party workers were repeatedly accused of arrogant behaviour. The CPIM government also supported the entry of young women into the Sabarimala temple. This went completely against public sentiment. Because of this, the sitting Chief Minister, Pinarayi



Vijayan, won his seat with a very slender margin of just 16,000 votes. In 2021, his margin was 50,000 votes. Ten years of governance fatigue and a lack of innovative projects for youth development have cost their government heavily.

In Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK used anti-Hindu rhetoric. Their leaders made statements like "We will destroy Sanatana Dharma like mosquitoes." This developed a strong aversion among the public.

Furthermore, when the opposition parties demanded a white paper on foreign investments, the then Industry Minister behaved very arrogantly. He openly showed a blank piece of white paper in a press conference to ridicule the opposition. This kind of mockery angered the common man.

Present Situation and Lessons for Political Parties

Many Assembly elections are in the pipeline, and the General Elections are scheduled for 2029. Therefore, all political parties must start serious self-introspection. They must change their operational style immediately.

The Congress Party, led by Rahul Gandhi, is not functioning like a constructive opposition. They seem to be promoting only false narratives to stall Parliament sessions. The common man does not like the stalling of Parliament. People expect the opposition to function responsibly.

Deliberately or unconsciously, some of the Senior leaders of Congress and other opposition parties are setting up narratives against our own country. In their hurry to oppose Prime Minister Modi, they are damaging India's image. Recently, one senior Congress leader openly praised Pakistan. His words were happily quoted by the Pakistan media. Due to this unprofessional approach, even their own allies hesitate to join hands with the Congress in elections.

On the other side, the BJP is also facing serious challenges. People are accusing the BJP of horse-trading to split smaller parties.

More importantly, many ruling party MPs and Ministers have lost connectivity with the public. Their offices do not respond empathetically to the common people.

We experienced this firsthand. When our *PreSense* team approached a sitting North Indian BJP MP for an interview, we sent the questions in English. Surprisingly, he refused to respond. He demanded that the communication must be sent only in Hindi. He even claimed that the Prime Minister had instructed everyone to communicate only in Hindi.

Honestly, this is a false claim. We have all seen how Prime Minister Modi encourages mother-tongue education. He speaks about the glory of Indian languages everywhere. He even quoted beautiful verses from Tamil literature in the United Nations. Unfortunately, his own MPs are bringing a bad name to the Prime Minister. They are creating unnecessary language tension in non-Hindi-speaking States.

Additionally, the recent mess-up in the NEET and CBSE examinations has caused extreme hardship to more than 50 lakh students and their families. This has created nationwide tension. The massive Gen Z protests across India are a clear indicator. The BJP Government is accused of not being sensitive to the problems of the youth.

By 2029, the BJP will complete 15 years of continuous governance. This will definitely cause governance fatigue among the voters. If MPs and Ministers continue with this casual and indifferent attitude, it will create a very negative perception. No new narrative built by the party at that time will be able to save them.



Global Conspiracy against India

Reports are coming in from the media that some of the foreign agencies are using our own Indian NGOs and political leaders to destabilise Indian democracy. They are allegedly setting up false narratives to trigger Gen Z revolution in India.

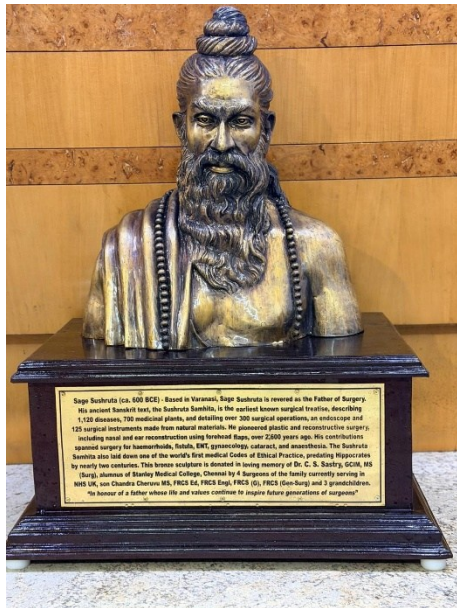
Recently, in Tamil Nadu, during the events presided over by the Governor, Vandemataram and the National Anthem were sung twice. Even in the Assembly session, when the Governor was present, the National Anthem was sung twice. Some opposition parties made a big issue within and outside the Assembly on why the National Anthem should be sung twice. Even the TV media debated largely on this. These types of sustained narratives will generate wrong perceptions in the minds of youngsters.

The Way Ahead

The recent happenings in Indian politics are only the tip of the iceberg. All major national and regional parties must wake up immediately. They must engage in deep self-introspection.

Political leaders must understand that the common man silently hates arrogance and insensitivity. If leaders choose to sit on ivory towers and close their eyes and ears to public problems, it will damage our democracy and the nation. The voter is watching. The voter will not hesitate to punish.

Pride of India: Global Salute to Our Ancient Medical Genius



In a historic moment for India, a 90-kilogram bronze statue of Maharishi Sushruta, crafted beautifully in Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu, was permanently unveiled at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) on 19th June 2026.

Established in 1505 under a Royal Charter from King James IV, RCSEd is the world's oldest and most renowned surgical institution. Operating across 140 countries with over 33,000 medical professionals, this monumental seat of Western medicine has now officially embraced the roots of its own craft.

Living in Kashi around 600 BCE, Maharishi Sushruta authored the *Sushruta Samhita*. He documented more than 300 intricate surgical procedures and 120 surgical instruments, pioneering complex rhinoplasty and skin grafting techniques.

A few years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proudly highlighted in a speech how plastic surgery was actively practised in ancient India. Today, this supreme global recognition from the world's oldest surgical college stands as a magnificent vindication of his statement. Every Indian must feel immense pride as international scholars honour our timeless scientific heritage.

Cover Story 1

The Radical Blueprint to Transform India: Ditch The Third Language for Compulsory Vocational Schooling



By Deepa Lenin, Editorial Board Member

An Exclusive, Freewheeling Conversation with the Legendary Civil Servant and Architect of the PAN Card System, Shri M R Sivaraman, IAS (Retd.)

The digital screen connects Chennai to the world, but the intellectual energy filling the room belongs entirely to one man. At 86 years of age, Shri M R Sivaraman, IAS (Retd.), remains an absolute powerhouse of public policy, fiscal economics, and structural vision. He was the Revenue Secretary of the Government of India and prepared five Union Budgets. He was the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He is the architect of Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card system in India. Our Editorial Team member **Deepa Lenin** sat down with the legendary former bureaucrat over Zoom for what was intended to be a structured discussion on India's import-export dynamics. Instead, the dialogue transformed into a deeply passionate, freewheeling masterclass. As the architect of India's modern PAN card system, Shri Sivaraman did not merely dissect trade numbers; he laid bare the foundational flaws of Indian industrial monopolies, exposed the infrastructure bottlenecks choking economic growth, and offered an explosive, revolutionary structural reform for the nation's educational system.



Excerpts:

Deepa Lenin: *Sir, it is an absolute honour to welcome you. You are widely recognised as the brain and the architect behind the Indian PAN card system, a framework that has completely revolutionised financial traceability for every citizen, from working professionals to children. Looking back at your passionate project, has the visualised structure of your original planning met your expectations, or does it still require fundamental improvement?*

Shri M R Sivaraman: When we first started the PAN card project, we actually modelled parts of it after studying systems in Canada and other countries. At that time, Shri Rangachari was the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), and we sat together to design the blueprint. We encountered immense initial hurdles, particularly with naming conventions and data structure, but the Tatas stepped into the picture and beautifully sorted out the operational issues. Within six months, we were successfully issuing the cards.

However, my original vision went much further. I sent a comprehensive proposal to the then Finance Minister stating that the PAN number must be completely universalised. I wanted it mandated for central excise, imports, exports, and even sales tax. I even started an experiment in Maharashtra, mapping their sales tax system under the harmonised system of nomenclature so it could seamlessly integrate with the PAN system. My plan was simple:

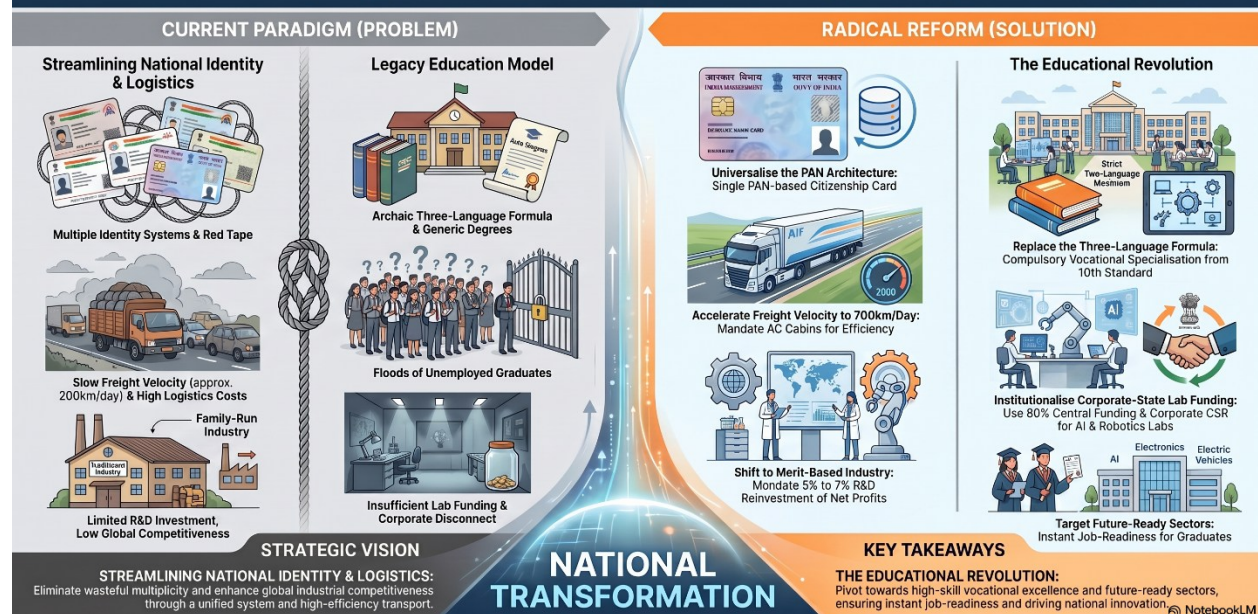
every citizen would maintain the same baseline number, with a state-specific suffix—such as 'MH' for Maharashtra, 'TN' for Tamil Nadu, 'KR' for Kerala, or 'K' for Karnataka.

Regrettably, the political leadership at the time put my proposal into cold storage. Years later, when the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out, the authorities realised it was far more efficient to adopt the PAN architecture as the baseline for registration rather than inventing a new system. While I am incredibly proud that PAN has effectively become the universal financial base for Indian enterprise, I am deeply critical of the current multiplicity of identity cards in our country.

We have fallen into a trap of card multiplication. If the Government had listened to my original proposal, the PAN card would have functioned as the sole universal card, saving thousands of crores in public expenditure.

A Radical Blueprint for India: Structural Reforms for National Transformation

M R Sivaraman's vision for streamlining identity systems, enhancing industrial competitiveness, and overhauling the education system for India as a global superpower.



Deepa Lenin: *That is a fascinating piece of institutional history, sir. Why do you believe the current multiplicity of identity cards is causing more problems than advantages?*

Shri M R Sivaraman: It is a massive, unnecessary expenditure. During the national census, I had a direct conversation with the then Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, and explicitly told him that because the census was already underway, it should be used to issue a single, definitive citizenship card. Instead, a corporate CEO (name suppressed) wielded immense, powerful influence over the Congress government, resulting in the parallel rollout of the Aadhaar card.

The biggest, most dangerous flaw of the Aadhaar system—which persists to this day—is that absolutely anyone can obtain it, whether they are an Indian citizen, an OCI holder, or a foreign national. We are now routinely catching foreign nationals using Aadhaar cards to illegally register to vote. If the authorities desperately wanted to issue identity cards to non-citizens, they should have at least issued them in a completely distinct colour to protect our democratic process. The duplication of cards is an administrative mess that has cost the exchequer thousands of crores.

Deepa Lenin: Turning our focus toward global trade, sir, what do you view as the absolute biggest challenge holding India back from aggressively increasing exports while simultaneously curtailing our dependence on imports?

Shri M R Sivaraman: The primary, systemic reason our exports remain severely constricted is that Indian industry is overwhelmingly family-run. We are not Google, Microsoft, or Apple—global giants where professional merit entirely dictates leadership, and where family members are nowhere near the boardroom. Look at the global tech firms: Google is brilliantly run by Sundar Pichai, a South Indian from Adyar, Chennai; Microsoft is led by Satya Nadella, the son of my own IAS batchmate, Bukkapuram Nadella Yugandhar of the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

In sharp contrast, major Indian conglomerates—whether it is the Tatas, Reliance, or the Birlas—remain tied to family lineages. Family-run businesses operate with a singular, overarching motive: domestic profit maximisation. They are deeply comfortable selling inside a massive, highly protected domestic market where almost anything can find a buyer because of long-standing corporate monopolies.

Business Model Benchmarks

To clearly understand why our commercial footprint remains restricted, we can contrast global multi-national structures with traditional domestic conglomerate frameworks:

Corporate Feature	Global Giants (Google, Apple)	Indian Family Conglomerates
Boardroom Leadership	Professional, merit-based leadership	Lineage-based boardrooms
Innovation Focus	High R&D investment for global tech	Domestic profit maximisation
Market Strategy	Aggressive international competition	Reliance on the domestic market

International markets demand fierce competition, relentless brand-building, and exceptional quality control. Most Indian companies simply refuse to do the heavy lifting required to establish a global footprint. Furthermore, their investment in Research and Development (R&D) is negligible—it is an absolute pittance. Corporate leaders proudly announce record-breaking net profits of 95,000 crores or ten billion US dollars, yet they reinvest a mere fraction into genuine scientific research. Tatas do spend on R&D, but the vast majority of that capital is deployed abroad for Jaguar rather than nurturing innovation within India. TATA R&D is mostly in the area of automobiles, and not in any other area of science and technology, or at least I am not aware of it.

The Logistics Crisis: High Costs and Slow Movements

- **The Expensive Road Trap:** A staggering 60% to 70% of Indian freight moves by road rather than rail. Rail transport costs roughly 1.5 rupees per kilogram, whereas road transport escalates to 2 to 2.5 rupees per kilogram.
- **The Velocity Deficit:** Indian cargo trucks are painfully slow and inefficient, averaging a dismal 300 kilometres per day. In stark contrast, trucks in the United States average 700 kilometres a day, and the Chinese trucks comfortably cover 500 kilometres daily.



- **Belated Driver Comfort:** It is only since last Oct 2025 that truck manufacturers have been mandated to provide Air-conditioning in the driver's cabin - no doubt a welcome move. The question is why this order should not be made applicable to the millions of trucks that are on the road. It is discriminatory that only the new trucks in a trucking company will have ACs in the cabins of the drivers, but not in the rest of the trucks. Will this not lead to discontentment amongst the truck drivers? Why not order that all the old roadworthy trucks should also be fitted with ACs within one year? This will result in a significant improvement in the distance covered by a truck in a day, reducing the cost of carriage of goods.
- **State Border Exploitation:** Trucks are routinely halted along highways by State police and tax officials. While the GST's e-way bill has provided some administrative relief, fuel costs remain artificially high because State Governments aggressively levy a 20% to 24% tax on diesel.

Deepa Lenin: Are there any specific sectors that are successfully breaking away from this domestic comfort zone to compete globally?

Shri M R Sivaraman: The singular, shining exception is our pharmaceutical sector. It is surging forward on the global stage, consistently discovering and engineering revolutionary, FDA-approved molecules. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our pharma industry performed exceptionally, supplying life-saving generics to the entire world. Even Donald Trump explicitly recognised that if India shut off its pharmaceutical pipeline, the healthcare system in the United States would collapse, given that 40% of its generic drugs are manufactured by Indian firms.

However, even within this roaring success story, severe state-created bottlenecks persist. The Central Government introduced Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) to cut down our heavy reliance on Chinese raw materials. Over thirty new manufacturing units have successfully come online, yet our total imports from China have still not dropped. Why? Because our domestic pharmaceutical sector is growing at such an explosive, exponential rate that our local API production simply cannot keep pace with the sheer volume of global demand.

Furthermore, China is actively weaponising non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to deliberately block Indian pharmaceutical products from entering its markets, because Beijing fundamentally does not want to see India achieve economic dominance in any high-value sector.

Deepa Lenin: Given these immense domestic hurdles and shifting geopolitical landscapes, how do you evaluate the current structural measures implemented by the government?

Shri M R Sivaraman: The Central Government is making genuinely tremendous, commendable efforts. Relaxing Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regulations, implementing tax refund mechanisms like the RoDTEP scheme, ensuring zero-rated GST for exporters, and aggressively signing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) across the globe, including with the EU and the UK. The real failure lies with our State Governments. States routinely take unearned credit for export booms. For instance, Tamil Nadu frequently boasts about its massive electronics export numbers, but the State Government did absolutely nothing to earn that success. It was entirely driven by Apple's global strategy and the Central Government's PLI frameworks.

If State Governments genuinely want to boost exports, they must establish dedicated, specialised administrative cells for exporters. They must aggressively intervene to build high-volume, subsidized labour hostels on State-owned land to house manufacturing workers—a critical step that State administrations are completely ignoring.



Deepa Lenin: Sir, I must look outward for a moment. How do you foresee the recent peace agreement brokered between the United States and Iran impacting India's trade, particularly regarding energy imports and maritime logistics?

Shri M R Sivaraman: It is a massively positive development for the Indian economy. The geopolitical conflict forced our merchant vessels to take incredibly long, circuitous maritime routes, which artificially inflated freight and insurance costs. With a formalized peace agreement, those numbers are already rapidly deflating.

Our exporters suffered severe volume losses during the peak tension months of March and April because international buyers were hesitant to risk long-term contracts. Now, Indian shipping lines are aggressively booking cargo space and reviving old trade networks. Within the next three to four months, our maritime trade routes to the Middle East and Europe will completely normalise, fully recovering the export deficits incurred earlier in the year.

Deepa Lenin: To conclude our discussion, sir, let us talk about the future of our human capital. If you were handed the reins of national policy tomorrow, what is the single most critical reform you would introduce to enable our youth to out-compete global manufacturing superpowers like China?

Shri M R Sivaraman: I will give you a completely explosive answer. We must immediately and completely scrap the three-language policy in our schools. It is a useless, administrative burden. No one actually practices a third language once they graduate; a student in Tamil Nadu forced to learn Malayalam, or a student in Madhya Pradesh forced to learn Kannada, forgets it completely within a few years of non-use. The three-language formula does not create any professional value that would increase the employability of a student as he or she graduates from the school

The three-language formula is a failed, archaic policy. The Central Government must issue an immediate national notification replacing the third language with compulsory vocational training from the tenth standard.



Look at Germany and China—they are formidable, terrifying industrial superpowers because their states deeply prioritize vocational schooling. In Germany, a highly skilled carpenter



comfortably commands a salary of \$100,000. In India, our system forces millions of bright young minds into generic, low-tier higher education, turning out graduation lines filled with third-class History BAs who can only hunt for low-paying, white-collar desk jobs.

We must completely re-engineer the system. From the tenth standard onwards, reduce the language requirement to two, and mandate that every single student—regardless of whether they are the child of a civil servant or a labourer—must master a specialised vocational trade to receive their high school certification.

Structural Educational Reforms

Contrasting the status quo of the current curriculum setup against this proposed structural overhaul shows how the paradigm would pivot:

Comparison Metric	Current Educational Paradigm	Shri M R Sivaraman's Radical Reform
Language Strategy	Archaic three-language formulas	Strict two-language maximum
Core Curriculum	Low-tier, generic arts degrees	Compulsory vocational specialization
Employment Outcome	Floods of unemployed graduates	Instant job-readiness from school
Economic Alignment	Mismatch with global market demands	Targeted expertise in AI, Robotics, & EVs

We must focus heavily on three core, globally dominant sectors: Electronics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Robotics. The automotive world is shifting entirely to Electric Vehicles (EVs), and an EV is essentially a rolling piece of advanced electronics. Look at Mahindra's latest EVs—they are so technologically sophisticated that they are giving Tesla a run for its money.

If our children spend three solid years from the tenth to the twelfth standard mastering AI applications, programming robotics, or managing electronic infrastructure, they will step into the economy as highly valuable, specialised professionals. Even if a student fails their standard academic papers, their vocational certification ensures they can be hired instantly by firms like Amazon, Flipkart, or the Tatas.

They can easily upgrade their vocational certificates into formal engineering diplomas, which can later be converted into an AMIE degree—fully equivalent to a Bachelor of Engineering. The Central Government should immediately alter its education policy, offering to fund up to 80% of state school laboratories and subsidising specialised teachers by drawing from corporate CSR funds and utilising retired industrial experts.

This single structural shift will completely transform India within the next five years. It will replace a nation of degree-holders with a formidable superpower of innovators, builders, and technical masters. The NEP has created tension in the State-Centre relations and rights issues. Its economic value to the student and the nation is a big zero.



Deepa Lenin: Can you share two critical messages for policymakers for National Transformation?

Shri M R Sivaraman: I would like to suggest two ideas for our policy makers for consideration:

1. **Liberate and Fuel Innovation:** Free the high-growth sectors, particularly pharmaceutical and technical fields, from stifling administrative controls, and provide deep tax incentives for R&D. Every corporate enterprise must be encouraged—or mandated via tax structures—to spend at least 5% to 7% of their net profit entirely on internal research and development.
2. **Mandate Practical Expertise Over Rote Learning:** Scrutinise national infrastructure to offer an explicit choice to State schools. Replace the third language requirements with a formalized vocational choice pathway. By allowing corporate entities to co-fund these labs via CSR budgets, the country will step into an era where high school dropouts and graduates alike possess structural, marketable skills to immediately enter the workforce.

Deepa Lenin: Thank you very much for your definitive structural map laid out for national development.

Shri M R Sivaraman: Thanks to PreSense Editorial Team for the opportunity given to me. Jai Hind

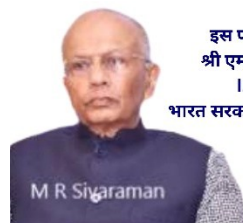
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Cover Story 2

The 4,399-Day Stint: 12 Years of the Modi Era: An Analysis



By Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Managing Editor, and Dr Sarika Takhar, Editorial Team Member



The milestone: Prime Minister Modi's for 4,399+ consecutive days is not just a political statistic. It is an amazing story of a person who rose from a grassroots-level party worker to the post of Prime Minister of India. His rise from Gujarat Chief Minister to arguably India's most able Prime Minister is a heady mix of high ambition, political branding, and controversies. It is astonishing to know that an entire generation is growing up under a single Prime Minister, the defining face of Narendra Modi. For a 15-year-old Indian in 2026, the concept of a Prime Minister has only one voice and one look – Narendra Modi.

Let us chronologically discuss his era:

Narendra Modi as Gujarat Chief Minister:

Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014. His long reign was marked by excellent crisis management after the disastrous earthquake in Bhuj. He

emphasised on infrastructure, power supply, and industrial development, and his style of development politics became the central point in his rise in national politics.

The Pillars of the 'Gujarat Model': Modi, during his tenure as CM, did a massive bureaucratic overhaul by upending traditional file-pushing culture, demanding strict accountability and directly monitoring execution of projects through a centralised system. His infrastructure and energy initiatives like Jyotigram Yojana radically transformed the State's rural landscape by separating agricultural power lines from domestic lines, thereby delivering near-uninterrupted 24/7 electricity to villages – a rare feat in India at that time. He made the State investment-friendly by launching the biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor Summit, he bypassed red tape through a single-window clearance system that attracted billions of domestic and foreign investments. This made Gujarat, India's premier manufacturing powerhouse.

Narendra Modi's Tenure as Prime Minister:

This made the BJP project Modi as the Prime Ministerial candidate in the 2014 general elections. The rest is history. The BJP won the elections, and Narendra Damodaradas Modi became the Prime Minister. Ironically, a maverick leader who styled himself as a disruptive anti-establishment rebel became India's ultimate political establishment icon!

The Calculus of Continuity

The Creative Angle: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about many changes that tallied with a changing landscape. His penchant for the digital transformation of India has borne fruit. Many politicians had been sceptical of PM Modi's digital propagation. They believed that this digital transformation would not reach the common man, who, they thought, might not be able to grasp this change. But all were proved wrong.



Pranab Mukherjee, then President of India administering oath to Narendra Modi in 2014

The Digital Leap: Modi aggressively supported Unified Payments Interface (UPI). There were doubts whether the UPI would percolate to the lower strata of the population. But the common man understood the procedure and has been doing digital transactions in every walk of life; An elderly woman using a biometric thumbprint to buy grain in a remote village, a young urban lad in Bengaluru paying for chai via a quick QR code scan, and a street cart vendor receiving UPI payments from his customers are some shining examples. India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

transformed the mobile phone from a luxury into a financial passport. By bypassing middlemen via Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), the Government engineered a quiet economic revolution by digitally transferring cash benefits directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts (Direct Benefit Transfers - DBT). His major policy shifts included the effective implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, along with the above-mentioned Direct Benefits Transfers. His master stroke of Demonetisation, though it initially caused inconvenience to the common man, put paid to the evil designs of printing and circulating counterfeit notes from across the border.

The "Welfare-State" Revolution: Going past dry numbers, let us talk about Modi's aspirational India. His humane victory lies in the massive, quiet transition of moving nearly 250 million people out of multidimensional poverty. It is the story of shifting from basic survival to relative stability through structural safety—free rations for 80 crore citizens, sanitation drives, houses for all and piped water for all villages.

Foreign Affairs: India evolved from a cautious global observer to an assertive "Vishwa Mitra" (friend of the world) or global swing power. Whether balancing ties during the Ukraine crisis or championing the Global South, the narrative under Modi transitioned from India wanting a seat at the table to India helping set the menu. Modi's foreign tours were mostly fruitful, leading to many useful tie-ups and investments. His deft handling of the two Super Powers – USA and Russia is commendable. He continued to purchase oil from Russia despite the threat of sanctions from USA. While continuing to import oil from Russia, he also made sure that the delicate relationship with USA is not affected. This, to a great extent, reduced the impact of the oil crisis due to the ongoing West Asia War. While the other neighbouring countries found it tough to procure oil, leading to a phenomenal increase in fossil fuel prices, in India, the hike in oil prices was minimal, mainly due to astute foreign diplomacy. This can be adduced by comparing fuel prices in neighbouring countries.

Health: Managing the Coronavirus epidemic: His astute thinking during the killer Coronavirus epidemic went a long way in reducing the Coronavirus-related deaths. Coronavirus vaccinations developed indigenously at short notice proved to be effective in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus. These vaccinations were provided free to all people. Not only that,

India exported the vaccines to many countries that were either facing a vaccination shortage or were unable to buy high-cost vaccines from the West.

Modi presented himself as a decisive problem-solver with a nationalistic vision. His effective communication style, disciplined public image, and effective branding projected him as the strongest Prime Minister. Under his regime, the Indian economy grew exponentially, catapulting it to the third-largest economy in the world at roughly \$4.15 Trillion in 2026. India is also one of the fastest-growing economies. India's Foreign Exchange Reserve is USD is around 700 Billion in the week ended June 26, 2026.

The Challenges & Structural Fault

Lines: Fast Economic Growth and Unemployment: The grand vision of a 5-trillion-dollar economy is currently facing a deeply human crisis at home: unemployment and severe underemployment. It is the story of highly educated youth scrambling for low-tier gig work or temporary contract jobs. The demographic dividend feels dangerously close to becoming a demographic liability. Despite the high-profile initiatives like the PM Kisan Nidhi, the rural-urban economic divide remains stark. Talk about the psychological weight on the Indian farmer—battling volatile climate patterns, rising input costs, and a market structure that often leaves them empty-handed. There are also criticisms regarding the alleged tightening grip on independent media and civil society, as well as the aggressive use of federal investigative agencies against political opponents. But these remain allegations only as there was no corroborative evidence.



President Droupadi Murmu administering oath to Narendra Modi in 2024, (third consecutive time as PM)

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The 2002 Gujarat riots continue to haunt Modi, though official investigations did not find sufficient evidence to charge him and absolved him of any wrongdoing. That controversy never fully disappeared; instead, it became part of the national debate over whether his politics prioritised development over inclusiveness.

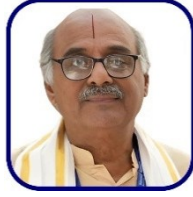
There is also a central question: Is economic efficiency arriving at the cost of institutional elasticity?

Under Modi, the older, secular "Idea of India" was decisively replaced by an assertive, unapologetic majoritarian identity. For his supporters, this is a historic decolonial reawakening—a reclamation of civilizational pride symbolised by projects like the Ram Mandir, while his critics and the country's vast minority populations accuse Modi of alienating a majoritarian drift that threatens the delicate fabric of India's pluralism. We cannot deny the fact that he has created "My India" patriotism across the nation. But the electoral results show that the majority of the population believes in him and his actions. He remains the undisputed leader for the third term now in India and also to the world.

Conclusion: The Verdict of Time

The Metaphor: Modi's 12-year governance can be compared to a high-speed bullet train. It may be fast, awe-inspiringly modern, and structurally uncompromising, but it leaves some people standing bewildered at the older stations, wondering if there is room for them on board. But the Modi express chugs on merrily, making India a vibrant economy.

History's final judgment on the Modi era won't be calculated solely by the length of his stay in New Delhi, but whether the massive state machinery he built left the average Indian fundamentally freer, safer, and more prosperous.

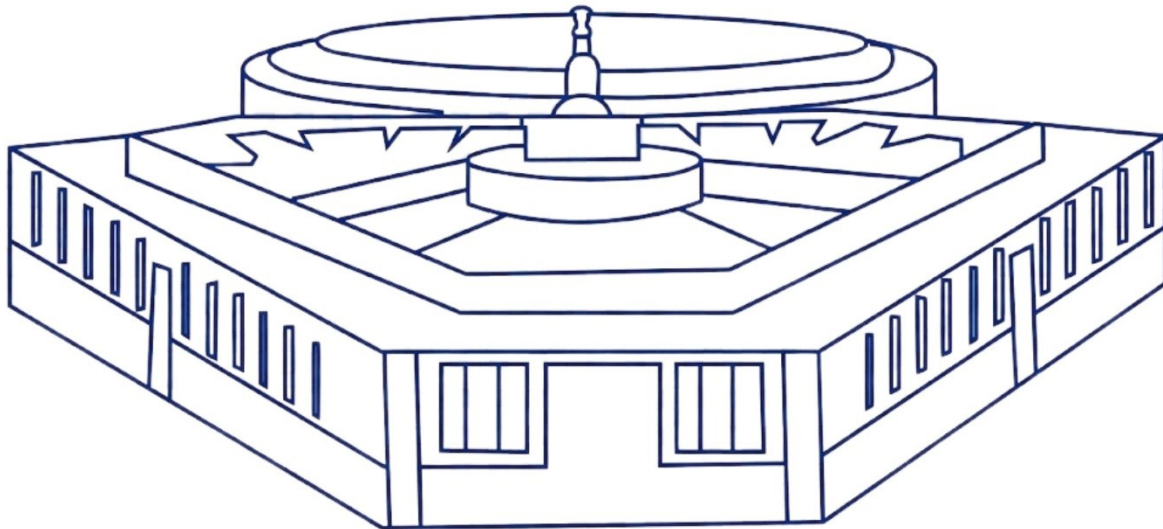


Nation



Performance Review of the 18th Lok Sabha till the end of the Budget Session 2026

By Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor, and Priyadarshni Rahul, Editor in Chief

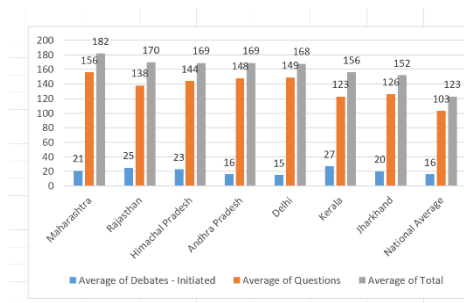


18th Lok Sabha commenced its business on 24th June 2024, The extended Budget Session was concluded on 18th April 2026. Seven Sessions were held during this period, including the extended Budget Session 2026. PreSense has analysed the performance of the Members of different States, genders, and Terms.

Data Courtesy: PRS Legislative Research

Performance of MPs State-wise

State	Average of Debates – Initiated	Average of Questions	Average of Total
Maharashtra	21	156	182
Rajasthan	25	138	170
Himachal Pradesh	23	144	169
Andhra Pradesh	16	148	169
Delhi	15	149	168
Kerala	27	123	156
Jharkhand	20	126	152
National Average	16	103	123



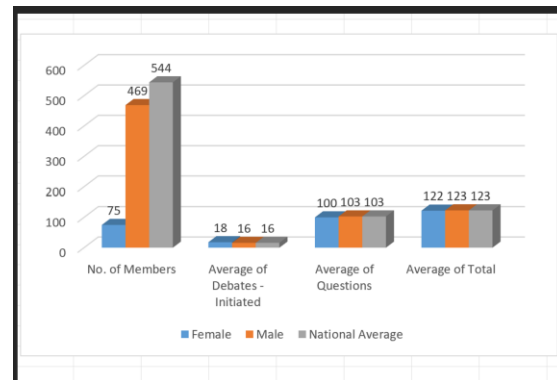
Consistently, Maharashtra has been topping the list for raising Questions and for the total tally of initiated debates, private members' bills, and Questions. In the 18th Lok Sabha also, they lead in these categories. Interestingly, in the 2026 Sansad Ratna Awards announced, Maharashtra has bagged 5 Awards, as against 12 Individual awards.

Kerala and Rajasthan have consistently led in the Initiated Debates category for years. In the 18th Lok Sabha, they are also leading the other States under this category.

(The data is based on the average per member)

Performance of MPs Gender-wise

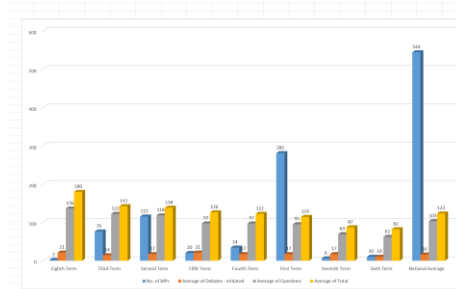
Gender	No. of MPs	Average of Debates - Initiated	Average of Questions	Average of Total
Female	75	18	100	122
Male	469	16	103	123
National Average	544	16	103	123



Though women members are around 15 to 18 percent in all the Lok Sabhas, their performance needs to be commended. Though there are only 75 women MPs (14 percent) in the 18th Lok Sabha, their performance excels the joint performance of male members. Data indicates that their average participation in Debates is higher than that of male members. In spite of the various challenges faced by the female members, they were able to focus on the Parliamentary duties. PreSense is confident that when 33 percent reservation is implemented in the Legislature, Parliament will be more active and participative.

Performance of MPs Gender-wise in each Parliamentary term

Members' s Term	No. of MPs	Average of Debates - Initiated	Average of Questions	Average of Total
Eighth Term	2	21	136	180
Third Term	76	14	122	142
Second Term	115	17	118	138
Fifth Term	20	21	97	126
Fourth Term	34	17	97	122
First Term	281	17	95	114
Seventh Term	6	17	69	87
Sixth Term	10	10	62	82
National Average	544	16	103	123



There are two MPs in the eighth term. One is a Minister and is not included for analysis. The data reflects the lone Member from Kerala. Generally, the second term and third term Members perform better than the national average. Nearly 191 members are in this segment. Since they have enough past experience, they can be motivated further to participate effectively. Nearly 281 MPs are the first term MPs. Despite being new entrants, they have shown a good performance, particularly under Debates. They can be further motivated and trained to enhance their performance.

In the next edition, we will review the performance of all Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Visionary Titans

T G Venkatesh

Sowing the Seeds of Transformation



Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor in Chief



The landscape of Rayalaseema has historically been chronicled through the dual lenses of industrial barrenness and explosive factionalism. Yet, true visionaries do not merely adapt to their environments; they fundamentally alter their typography. As the Founder Chairman of the multi-million dollar TGV Group, Tumbalam Gooty Venkatesh (T G Venkatesh) carved an empire out of heavy chemicals, clean energy, and bio-pharmaceuticals, proving that industrial conviction can thrive in the most challenging terrains. A maverick in corporate engineering and a bold voice in governance, he transitioned seamlessly from grassroots economics to State and national legislation, serving with distinction as a Minister in the Andhra Pradesh Government and later as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. Crucially, as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, his definitive policy interventions, such as the landmark report on the 'Role of Highways in Nation Building', reshaped modern national infrastructure frameworks. Today, his structural legacy enters a new generation of public service through his son, T. G. Bharath, who serves as the Minister of Industries and Commerce for Andhra Pradesh, embodying a familial timeline dedicated to economic progress and State development.

In an exclusive, deeply poignant conversation with Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor-in-Chief of PreSense, T G Venkatesh shared how development can serve as the ultimate antidote to regional lawlessness, and why corporate governance must prioritize the sacred emotional welfare of the worker's household over cold corporate sheets.

Priyadharshni Rahul: *Sir, looking back at your journey from the historic mercantile roots of Madanapalle to building the vast TGV Group, the transition appears titanic. What was the core philosophy that enabled you to overcome the severe bureaucratic and financial hurdles of early Indian industrialization?*

T G Venkatesh: My father taught me three indelible principles: be stubborn where you are correct, allow absolutely no hanky-panky, and remain completely honest to your word. He believed that before committing to any path, an individual must think twice, thrice, but once committed, you must never go back. When we established our heavy chemical and caustic soda plants, we were introducing advanced bipolar membrane cell technologies into an environment that lacked the necessary industrial support systems. The hurdles were persistent, but I approached them with that exact stubbornness. A visionary titan cannot afford to look back; he looks solely at the structural future he wants to build for his people.



Priyadharshni Rahul: *Your childhood and school days are filled with remarkable characters, but none seem to have left a deeper emotional imprint on you than your school headmaster, Mr. Narasinga Rao. Could you share the profound story of your final encounter with him?*

T G Venkatesh: My school headmaster, Narasinga Rao, was very much attached to me. Decades later, when I was completely immersed in managing our heavy industries in Kurnool, he had retired and reached a very advanced age. During his active years, he and his wife used to fight constantly like cats; it was a terrible, non-stop domestic battle. After his retirement, his wife passed away, and he called me to visit him one last time. When I went to his home, this elderly, strict man started weeping uncontrollably before me. I looked at him, deeply moved, and asked, "Sir, you two were fighting so much when she was alive. Why are you crying so bitterly now?"

What he told me then is something I carry in my soul every day. He said, "No, no, Venkatesh, the relationship between a husband and a wife is entirely different. Even in the dead of night, if I want a glass of water, she was the one who had to bring it. I cannot demand that from my daughter-in-law, my son, or anyone else. Now, I have no partner left. Our fight was one thing, but our attachment was an entirely different universe. We fought, we lived, and we lived happily. Now she is gone, I cannot survive for more days. I will die very soon."

He then asked me for ten thousand rupees. I didn't question him; I pulled it from my pocket—money I had kept for an industrial trip to Kolkata—and handed it over, which he tucked safely beneath his pillow. I tried to reassure him, saying, "Sir, you are not going to die, please use this for your medical care." But he held my hand and said, "No, I am going to die. I do not want my children's money or anyone else's charity. They are comfortable in their lives, but I want your money specifically. My money for my *anthyakriya*—my last rites—your money only should be used." The very moment my flight touched down in Kolkata, I received the message that he had breathed his last. Beneath his pillow, they discovered a letter explicitly stating that my money alone must be used for his funeral. That level of pure, raw human attachment from a teacher moulded a man far more than any textbook ever could.

Priyadharshni Rahul: *That is incredibly moving, sir. It seems this exact emotional depth translates directly into your corporate governance. Your unique anti-smoking and anti-alcohol allowance program for employees is legendary. What led to the design of this unique social engineering framework?*

T G Venkatesh: When I was about nine years old, a small stone accidentally hit a boy during a football match. His father happened to be a prominent judge, and our school playground sat directly adjacent to the local jail and court. The boy began blackmailing me, pointing to the jail and threatening to have his father throw me in there because blood had been drawn. For a week, he extorted money from me, starting from a single rupee and moving to larger coins, until the injury fully healed. Once the mark disappeared and he had no evidence left, I turned around, beat him left and right, and yelled, "Get back my money! Go tell your dad, you can't show any injury now!" It taught me early on that vice, extortion, and bad habits thrive entirely on creating an environment of fear and hidden dependency.

Later in life, I observed that the greatest tragedy of a blue-collar worker's home is that hard-earned wages are routinely squandered on alcohol and cigarettes, leaving the family in economic tatters. I realized that simply preaching would achieve nothing. So, I introduced the 'Gowri Allowance' in my industries, named affectionately after my mother. We provide a specific monthly cash bonus exclusively to employees who completely abstain from smoking and alcohol. But here is the human crux of the policy: I do not hand that compensation to the worker. It is documented, signed, and issued directly to the housewives or the parents of the employees. Currently, across our industrial units, we spend around forty-five lakh rupees every single month on this allowance alone. By putting the money directly into the hands of the women, we ensure it funds nutrition, children's education, and domestic security. If you



want to build an industrial empire, you must first secure the sanctity of the homes that build it for you.



Priyadharshni Rahul: *Kurnool was historically one of the most volatile, faction-ridden, and Naxalite-prone regions in Andhra Pradesh. As an industrialist and political leader, how did you navigate these existential threats and manage to drive substantial regional development?*

T G Venkatesh: The historical tragedy of Rayalaseema is that its lands were dominated by massive, forward-community land grabbers who heavily exploited the socio-economically marginalized communities, particularly the Valmikis or the Boyas, who possessed incredible muscle strength and fighting heritage dating back to the Vijayanagara Empire. These poor people were paid pittance by faction leaders to execute horrific crimes, including contract murders, while the masterminds sat safely in their mansions.

When I entered the space, the vast majority of the *hamalis*—the heavy loaders—and workers in our chemical factories belonged to these very communities. We treated them with absolute dignity, fair wages, and human respect. They grew so close to our family that their elders would regularly come to our courtyard to train us in *karrasamu*—traditional stick fighting—and physical conditioning from the time we were seven years old. Consequently, whenever factional leaders or land grabbers tried to mobilize muscle power against our businesses, the local community flatly refused to cooperate. They protected us because we had given them economic equity and human value. I quickly recognized that these big faction leaders were fundamentally cowards; they had no personal guts to face anyone front-to-front. Whenever an issue arose, I walked directly into their territories, stood right before them, and challenged them to step forward. They would invariably back down and run away from the scene.

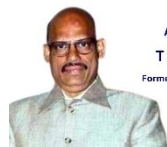
With the Naxalites, the dynamic was deeply complex because the Nallamala Forest ran right through our region, and many top commanders emerged from there. At midnight, around 12:30 or 1:00 a.m., a group of Naxalites—including a very tall, formidable lady commander—personally walked into my place. They sat down and said, "Sir, we have immense respect for you, which is why we have come to you directly. A certain local forest-based MLA has killed our associates, and our group is going to execute him tonight. It is our dharma to inform you beforehand so you do not misunderstand our motives." I tried to reason with her, asking them to reconsider such a hard line, but she responded that their people's blood had been spilled and they would not leave it. Within ten days, he was killed. It was a brutal environment.

Naxalism in our region didn't start because of an ideological textbook; it started because of raw poverty, systemic neglect of tribal regions post-independence, and a total lack of employment after deforestation regulations left locals with no means to earn bread and butter. My strategy was straightforward: counter lawlessness with employment. By scaling SRAAC and protecting over 30,000 acres of land surrounding Kurnool from illegal land grabbers, we turned the region into an industrial zone. We gave people stable livelihoods, contracts, and commercial purposes. When people have a steady income, a house, and a stake in the local economy, the ground beneath extremism naturally evaporates. Today, Naxalism in Kurnool is completely a thing of the past.

Priyadharshni Rahul: It is incredible how your industrial footprint completely altered the economic landscape of Kurnool. Your journey later took you to the State Cabinet and the Rajya Sabha. Looking at the current generation, your son, T.G. Bharath, has now stepped into public life, serving as the Minister of Industries and Commerce for Andhra Pradesh. How does it feel to see the mantle pass?

T G Venkatesh: When Bharath completed his MBA from Cardiff University, he had the choice to purely manage our multi-million dollar corporate assets. But I groomed him to understand that wealth without public service is meaningless in a country like India. He tried his hand at the civil services, studied the law, and fully immersed himself in the grassroots realities of our workers. Seeing him steer the industrial and trade policies of Andhra Pradesh today brings my life's journey full circle. It is a passing of the torch from a father who fought factionalism to build factories to a son who now uses State policy to invite global investment. Legacy is not about the wealth you leave behind; it is about the standard of service you instil in the next generation to serve the nation.

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Former Rajya Sabha MP and
Industrialist

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Time Capsule Chronicles: Revisiting PreSense - 20 Years Ago – June 2006 “Internal Communication”



Twenty years ago, **Vol 1, Issue 4 of PR-e-Sense** hit the digital stands, firmly establishing itself as a forward-thinking voice for India's corporate communications sector. Published by the Prime Point Foundation and Chennai PR Club, this edition centered on a timeless puzzle: the strategic necessity of **Internal Communication**.

Key Highlights

- **The Boardroom Shift:** Chief Editor K. Srinivasan noted that organizations frequently treat internal communication as a mere formality or get confused over whether PR or HR should own it. He called for it to be elevated to the "Board Room" level to boost productivity and build "Employer Branding".
- **The World's Largest Campaign:** In a standout interview, former Chief Election Commissioner **T S Krishnamurthy** detailed the communication wonder behind Indian elections. He explained how a two-tier training system and massive face-to-face strategies successfully mobilized 5 million election officials and 670 million voters.
- **Print vs. Digital Debate:** Industry discussion extracts highlighted a fascinating era of transition, where experts actively debated the rise of online newsletters against the high engagement of traditional printed versions.

Looking back, the issue beautifully paired corporate case studies—like Maruti Udyog's "Listen" culture and Corporation Bank Officers Organisation's long-running *Officers' Voice* newsletter—with practical learning points on calculating communication ROI. Two decades later, this issue serves as a nostalgic yet highly relevant reminder that while tech tools evolve, authentic human relations remain the cornerstone of effective PR.

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Review by Gemini AI





Freedom Fighters of India

Lala Lajpat Rai (Punjab)



By C. Badri, Joint Managing Editor

(Lala Lajpat Rai, the "Lion of Punjab," was a fearless freedom fighter, educator, and "Lal-Bal-Pal" member who sacrificed his life resisting British rule.)



Lala Lajpat Rai was one of the most prominent leaders of India's freedom struggle against British rule. Revered as the "Lion of Punjab," he dedicated his life to the service of the nation and inspired millions of Indians to fight for independence. His courage, patriotism, and unwavering commitment to freedom made him one of the greatest freedom fighters in Indian history. Along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, he formed the famous trio known as "Lal-Bal-Pal," which played a significant role in awakening national consciousness among Indians.

Lala Lajpat Rai was born on January 28, 1865, in Dhudike village in present-day Punjab. His father, Munshi Radha Krishan Azad, was a teacher and scholar, while his mother, Gulab Devi, was a deeply religious woman. From an early age,

Lajpat Rai displayed exceptional intelligence and a strong sense of justice. He completed his education in Lahore and later studied law. Although he became a successful lawyer, his true passion lay in serving society and working for the nation's welfare.

Lajpat Rai was greatly influenced by the teachings of the Arya Samaj, a reform movement founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The Arya Samaj emphasised social reform, education, and the revival of Indian cultural values. Inspired by these ideals, Lajpat Rai became actively involved in social work and educational initiatives. He believed that education was essential for national progress and helped establish several educational institutions, including the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) schools and colleges.

As British rule in India became increasingly oppressive, Lajpat Rai emerged as a strong critic of colonial policies. He joined the Indian National Congress and worked tirelessly to mobilise people against British exploitation. Unlike some leaders who preferred gradual reforms, he advocated a more assertive approach to achieving self-rule. He encouraged Indians to develop self-confidence, promote indigenous industries, and reduce dependence on British goods.

The Partition of Bengal in 1905 by the British Government sparked widespread protests across India. Lala Lajpat Rai played a leading role in the Swadeshi Movement, which urged Indians to boycott British products and support local industries. He travelled extensively, delivering powerful speeches that inspired people to participate in the freedom struggle. His passionate advocacy for national pride and self-reliance earned him immense popularity.

The British authorities viewed Lajpat Rai as a threat because of his growing influence. In 1907, he was arrested and deported to Mandalay in Burma (now Myanmar) without trial.



Although he was later released due to public pressure, the incident further enhanced his reputation as a fearless nationalist leader. He continued his political activities with even greater determination after his return.

During World War I, Lajpat Rai travelled to the United States, where he sought international support for India's independence. He wrote extensively about British rule and its impact on India. His books, including *Young India*, *England's Debt to India*, and *Unhappy India*, exposed the injustices of colonial rule and highlighted India's aspirations for freedom. Through his writings and lectures, he helped create global awareness about India's struggle for independence.

After returning to India, Lajpat Rai became actively involved in the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. Although he respected Gandhi's leadership, he maintained his independent views on several political issues. He believed that the fight for freedom required both mass participation and strong political action. Throughout his career, he remained committed to the goal of India's complete independence.

One of the most significant events in Lala Lajpat Rai's life occurred in 1928. The British government appointed the Simon Commission to discuss constitutional reforms in India. However, the Commission contained no Indian members, which angered people across the country. Indians regarded it as an insult to their aspirations and demanded that it be boycotted.

When the Simon Commission arrived in Lahore on October 30, 1928, Lajpat Rai led a massive peaceful protest against it. Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets carrying black flags and shouting slogans such as "Simon Go Back." The protest was non-violent, but the police responded with brutal force. Under the orders of British police officer James A. Scott, the protesters were subjected to a severe lathi charge.

Despite his age, Lajpat Rai stood firmly at the forefront of the demonstration. He was struck repeatedly by police batons and suffered serious injuries. Refusing to be intimidated, he declared, "Every blow aimed at me is a nail in the coffin of British imperialism." These words became a powerful symbol of resistance and determination.

Although he initially survived the assault, his injuries proved fatal. On November 17, 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai passed away. His death shocked and enraged the nation. Indians regarded him as a martyr who had sacrificed his life for the cause of freedom. His death also inspired a new generation of revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh, who sought to avenge the attack on their beloved leader.

Lala Lajpat Rai's contributions extended beyond politics. He was a social reformer, educator, writer, and institution builder. He founded the Servants of the People Society in 1921 to promote social service and national development. The organisation continues its work even today, reflecting its enduring legacy. He also championed causes such as women's education, social equality, and economic self-reliance.

The legacy of Lala Lajpat Rai remains deeply embedded in India's national memory. He demonstrated extraordinary courage in confronting colonial oppression and inspired countless Indians to join the freedom movement. His commitment to education, social reform, and national unity contributed significantly to India's awakening as a modern nation.

In conclusion, Lala Lajpat Rai was one of the greatest heroes of India's struggle for independence. His life exemplified patriotism, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the nation. Through his leadership, writings, and fearless resistance to British rule, he helped shape the course of Indian history. Even today, he is remembered with admiration and respect as the Lion of Punjab, whose sacrifice strengthened the fight for freedom and brought India closer to independence.





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