# PRO SENSE

**Spreading Positive Vibrations**
**Issue No 201 – Nov 2023**
**Published by Prime Point Foundation**

## Cover Story


**Hate Speeches in Politics**

## In This Issue



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PRESENSE

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# From the Desk of Managing Editor

Dear Readers

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I am happy to share the 201st edition of your eMagazine PreSense with its rich content as always.

After the successful launch of 200th edition last month, we thought of introducing new columns to benefit the readers. From this edition, we will be reviewing our edition published 15 years ago in the corresponding month. In this edition, we start with the November 2008 edition of PreSense. Please read and enjoy.

We have also introduced a new series titled "Susan's Musings". Susan Koshy, our former Editor in Chief, will be writing every month on any subject of interest.

**Highlights of this issue**:

Prince cartoon

Editorial: Israel–Hamas war

Cover Story: Hate Speeches in Indian Politics

Dental Care and Dental Health

Constitution Day 2023

From the Archives – Nov 2008 edition

Susan's Musings

Tribute to Asha Bhosle

Freedom Fighter Matmur Jamoh

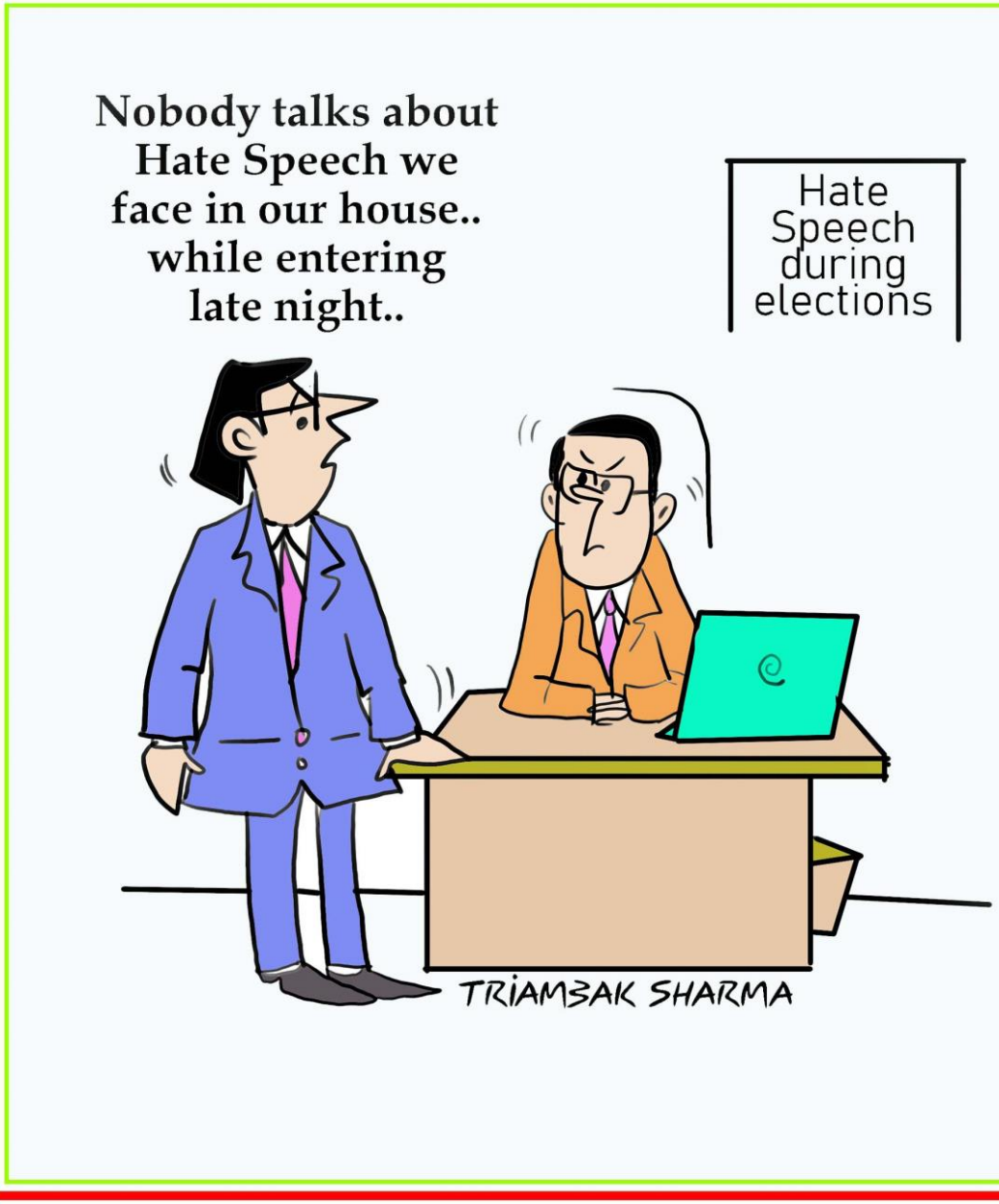
I am confident that readers will enjoy reading this edition too. Kindly send your feedback to editor@corpezine.com so our Editorial Board can examine your suggestions. Please share this edition with your friends. I will catch up with you next month with more varied content.

Jai Hind

*K. Srinivasan*

# PRince

By Triambak Sharma
www.cartoonwatchindia.com
email-cartoonwatch@gmail.com



## Editorial

# Building Bridges to Peace: Charting a Path Beyond the Gaza-Israel Crisis and Ukraine Conflict

***By Ramesh Sundaram, Editor-in-Chief***

***(The editorial discusses the Hamas-Israel war causing suffering in Gaza. It recounts events, media influence, India's stance, condemns attacks, urges peace talks, UN involvement, and emphasizes global cooperation for a war-free world.)***

The Hamas-Israel war is causing untold misery to innocent Israelis and to hapless Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip. Not only that, the war along with the still ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is posing a huge humanitarian crisis. The peaceful existence of humanity is threatened because of these wars.

This editorial briefly describes the sequence of events on how the Hamas-Israeli war unfolded and also a critical analysis of the situation.

On October 7, 2023, the Hamas group conducted a surprise terror attack on Israel. The Israelis who were usually alert were caught napping. In this inhuman attack, other than Israeli soldiers, many civilians including innocent children were targeted, tortured, and killed gruesomely and taken hostages. Many nations considered this a blatant terror attack. Within hours, Israel began a counter-offensive against Hamas. The US condemned the Hamas terror attack and reaffirmed its support for Israel. The Vatican also offered mediation. The Qatar acted as a mediator. Due these prolonged efforts, Israel and Hamas agreed to a temporary ceasefire in Gaza. As this issue goes for publication, Israel has continued the war after a six-day ceasefire. The picture has become very gloomy again.

The role of media in shaping public perception and influencing the narrative of the conflict cannot be overstated. News outlets on both sides presented their perspectives, contributing to the polarization of opinions. The digital age facilitated the rapid spread of information, misinformation, and propaganda, making it challenging for the global audience to discern the truth amidst the noise. The media should play a non-biased and constructive role in bringing the war to an end.

**India's position:**

In the wake of the Hamas attack on October 7, Modi has issued a strong statement in support of Israel. He initially tweeted, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel." Later Ministry of External Affairs released the Government's formal position repeating the condemnation of the Hamas attack but also reminding Israel of its "universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law' while fighting the menace of terrorism…" It also reiterated its "long-standing and consistent" position on the Palestine issue. "India wants direct negotiations towards establishing... a sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine", Foreign Ministry spokesman Mr. Bagchi said. He described India's position on the Palestine issue as "longstanding and consistent",

The spokesman said the government would like to see negotiations leading to a Palestine state "living within secure and recognised borders, side-by-side (and) at peace with Israel. That position remains the same."

Analysis: The terror attack on Israel by Hamas and that too targeting civilians and innocent children should be condemned unequivocally. The killing, torture, and beheading of innocent people was very inhuman and dastardly. It was further exacerbated by taking hostages and kidnapping them to Gaza. It does not bode well at all.

Though Israel has the right to counterattack, its continuing occupation and attack on Gaza cause untold misery to innocent citizens living there. These attacks have caused the death of many citizens for no fault of them.

Resolving the Hamas-Israel conflict requires a comprehensive and all-inclusive approach. International diplomacy must address the root causes of the conflict while considering the legitimate grievances and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians. A commitment to dialogue, mutual recognition, and a just two-state solution as put forward by India, may be the most viable path forward, though achieving consensus on these issues is an arduous task.

Both parties should hold a direct dialogue and bring an end to this mayhem. The UN should step in to resolve the issue. Israel should withdraw back to its original border and Hamas should not attack Israel. A benevolent Government can be set up in Palestine which will have total control over Gaza Strip and West Bank. A peace treaty has to be signed by the warring nations like Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine to bring about a permanent peace solution in West Asia. A UN Peacekeeping Force can be stationed between Palestine and Israel that will act both as a buffer and monitor the situation in the area. A case in point was the deployment of UN Peacekeeping forces between Egypt and Israel after the Israel-Egypt war in 1957. In the last 75 years, more than one million men and women from 125 countries have served in 71 peacekeeping missions worldwide. They are very effective in defusing the situation.

All said and done, the inhumane terror attacks should be put to an end, not only in Palestine but in the whole world itself.

Last but not least the border issues have to be settled without ambiguity. In this effort, India, which has good relations with both Israel and Palestine, along with the UN can play a big role in ironing out this vexatious issue.

A peaceful world without any war should be the ultimate goal of all the countries of this world to save humanity from untold suffering. Let us not remain pessimist. Let us make the beginning. A new world order where all nations coexist may be a distant dream now but it may become a reality one day or other. The famous Indian adage `Vasudeva g' meaning "people of the world belong to one family" is apt in this demeaning warring situation.

## Cover Story

# Words as Weapons: The Rise of Hate Speech in Indian Politics

***By Prime Point Srinivasan, Mg. Editor***

***(Indian politics grapples with rising hate speeches causing social discord and violence. Legal, political, and educational reforms are vital for eradication. The global comparison highlights challenges and solutions.)***

Hate speeches in Indian politics have emerged as a significant and alarming issue, leading to divisiveness, social discord, and even violence. A recent speech by a Tamil Nadu political leader to eradicate 'Sanatana Dharma' created huge national controversy, leading to political implications. Madras High Court also advised the political leaders to be careful during their speeches, not to hurt the sentiments of others. Recently, a Chief Minister of a big State used in the Assembly some inappropriate words against women, which were opposed nationwide. Later, he graciously withdrew that world. With the General Elections in a few months, hate speeches by political leaders are going to increase.

**Origin of Hate Speeches in Indian Politics:**

The roots of hate speeches in Indian politics can be traced back to historical and socio-political factors. Politicians have often exploited India's rich diversity of cultures, religions, and languages to advance their agendas. The colonial legacy of 'divide and rule' further deepened societal fault lines, making it easier for politicians to manipulate and sow seeds of hatred. Hindu-Muslim clashes in North India during the 1940s were the results of the hate speeches triggered by the 'Divide and rule' policy of the British regime. In the early 1930s, the 'anti-brahmin movement' by the British loyalists in Tamil Nadu spread hatred against Brahmins and it continues to date. Presently, hate speeches are often used as a means to polarise voters, targeting specific religious, caste, or regional groups, playing on their insecurities and prejudices for electoral gains.

**The Use of Hate Speeches for Vote Bank Politics:**

Hate speeches have become an integral part of the vote bank politics in India. Various political parties have been known to strategically use hate speeches to appeal to particular demographic groups, aiming to consolidate their support. Politicians often rally their base by playing on existing fault lines and exploiting communal and caste identities, making it a powerful tool for electoral victories. This divisive strategy perpetuates a vicious cycle, as politicians continue to engage in hate speeches to secure and maintain their vote banks.

In recent years, social media platforms have become a significant arena for the dissemination of hate speech. The instantaneous and widespread nature of these platforms allows hate speech to reach a large audience quickly, amplifying its impact. Politicians of all parties leverage these platforms to communicate directly with the public, but sometimes this communication takes the form of provocative language, further deepening the conflict among various communities.

**Legal Provisions Under Indian Laws:**

India has a range of legal provisions to combat hate speech, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Section 153A, Section 295A of the IPC, and Section 125 of the Representation of the Peoples Act (RPA) 1951 deal with promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, and committing deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, respectively. The Election Commission of India also monitors and acts against hate speeches during elections.

**Punitive Action Taken in the Past:**

Despite legal provisions, the enforcement of laws against hate speech has often been inconsistent. Some politicians have faced consequences for their inflammatory rhetoric, but many escape unscathed due to political affiliations or the lengthy legal process. However, there have been instances of punitive action. However, there have been instances where individuals have been convicted for hate speeches. In 2018, a BJP MLA was sentenced to two years in jail for hate speech against Muslims. In 2022, a Supreme Court lawyer was sentenced to six months in jail for hate speech remarks. Time and again High Courts and the Supreme Court of India have been cautioning against these hate speeches and advising authorities to act. But in reality, it is not happening.

**Eradicating the Hate Speech Syndrome:**

Eradicating hate speeches in Indian politics requires a multi-pronged approach.

Strengthening Legal Framework: The legal framework needs to be strengthened to ensure swifter and more effective action against hate speech perpetrators. This includes better definitions of hate speech, clearer guidelines, and faster trials. Many times, hate speeches are perceived as freedom of speech, which is not correct as per the Constitution.

Political Accountability: Politicians should be held accountable for their actions. Strong public condemnation and pressure from civil society can play a significant role in discouraging hate speech.

Media Responsibility: Media plays a vital role in amplifying or mitigating hate speech. Responsible journalism and fact-checking can help curb the spread of divisive rhetoric.

Education and Awareness: Promoting inclusivity and diversity through education can help reduce the susceptibility of individuals to hate speech.

Inter-faith and Inter-community Dialogue: Encouraging dialogue and understanding among different communities can foster tolerance and unity. All religious leaders should issue greeting messages when other religious groups are celebrating their festivals.

**Global Comparison:**

In the US, the First Amendment to the Constitution protects freedom of speech, making it difficult to legislate against hate speech. However, the Supreme Court has recognised certain limitations to this right, such as incitement to violence or discriminatory speech that interferes with the rights of others.

The UK has adopted a more proactive approach to tackling hate speech than the US. In 2006, the UK Parliament passed the Racial and Religious Hatred Act, which criminalises the use of hate speech based on race or religion. The Act also establishes a Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Hate Crime Unit, which is responsible for investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

In addition to the Racial and Religious Hatred Act, the UK has also implemented several other measures to combat hate speech, including:

- The Public Order Act 1986: This Act prohibits the use of threatening, abusive, or insulting language in a public place.
- The Communications Act 2003: This Act prohibits the sending of offensive or obscene messages via electronic communications.
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988: This Act prohibits the sending of communications that are intended to cause distress or anxiety to the recipient.

The UK government has also taken steps to promote tolerance and understanding, such as:

- Funding community groups that work to combat hate speech and discrimination.
- Launching campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of hate speech.
- Supporting schools and other educational institutions to teach children about respect and tolerance.

Despite these efforts, hate speech remains a problem in the UK. In 2021, the CPS reported a 43% increase in hate crimes motivated by religion or belief. The rise in hate crimes has been attributed to several factors, including the increased use of social media, the rise of populist and nationalist movements, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Conclusion:**

Hate speeches in Indian politics are a dangerous tool used for vote bank politics, exploiting divisions among the population. Legal provisions exist, but inconsistent enforcement and political affiliations often shield perpetrators. Eradicating this syndrome requires a comprehensive approach, including legal reforms, political accountability, responsible media, education, and inter-community dialogue.

The recent incidents involving many leaders for their controversial remarks underscore the importance of political leaders choosing their words wisely. Comparative analysis of the United States and the United Kingdom reveals that hate speech is a global concern, with each country grappling with its unique challenges and solutions. Addressing hate speeches is crucial not only for the harmony of Indian society but also for the health of democracies worldwide.

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## Dental Care and Dental Health:

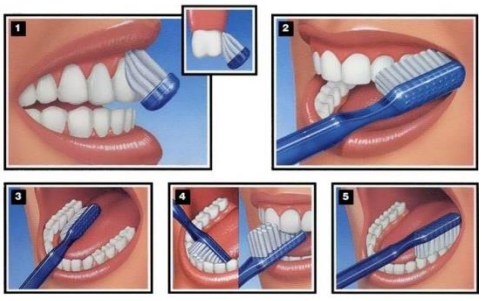
## An Exclusive with a Senior Dentist Dr Chandragupta


In an exclusive chat session with Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor of the eMagazine PreSense, Dr M S Chandragupta, Senior Dentist reveals a lot of secrets about dental care and oral health.

He talks about the brushing method, flossing, feeding babies, milk teeth, wisdom teeth, dental jewellery, etc.

Please watch this interesting conversation.

https://youtu.be/RkSW8FYg5dQ




***Brushing technique***

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## Nation

## Constitution Day 2023 Celebrations

Indian Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949. Earlier it was celebrated as National Law Day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared this day in 2015 as Constitution Day. For the past 7 years, our group initiatives have been celebrating this day every year without fail to salute our Constitution maker.


**Top Row; Priyadharshni Rahul and T S Krishnamurthy Bottom Row: Sanjay Yadav**

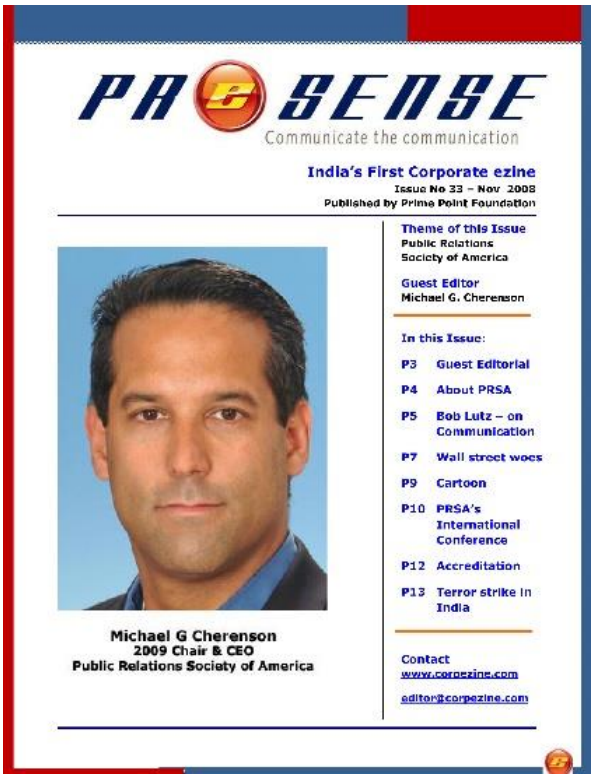
On November 25, 2023, Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL), one of our initiatives, celebrated this day jointly with Ahlcon International School, Delhi. An oratorical competition was organised through Zoom. 36 students across the globe, including Japan, UAE, and Kuwait participated enthusiastically. Nakshatra Neeraja Banu, a student of Indian Education School, Kuwait secured the first Prize. (Photo on the left). T S Krishnamurthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India was the Chief Guest. The event was organized by Priyadharshani Rahul, National President of NGPL and Editor of PreSense, and Sanjay Yadav, Principal of Ahlcon International School. PreSense places on record its appreciation of the efforts put in by the teachers of Ahlcon International School and the students and teachers of all the participating schools across the globe.

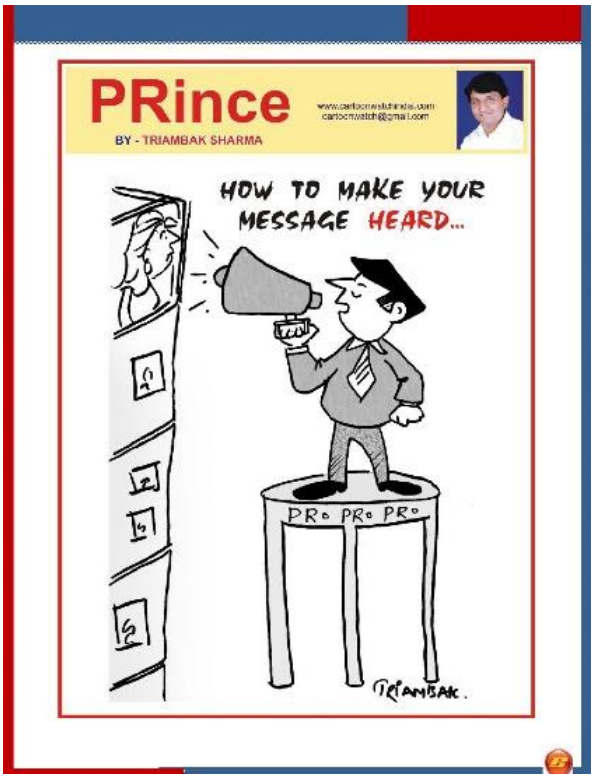

### Dr S K Kharventhan on Indian Constitution


PreSense also recorded an exclusive talk with Dr S K Kharventhan, Former MP and Former Chairman of the Bar Council of India. He explains the insight of the Indian Constitution. He has shared insights about the Constitution and the role played by Dr B R Ambedkar. Please listen to his talk. https://youtu.be/JtC0k2ThJ0s

## Time Capsule Chronicles:

## Revisiting PreSense - 15 Years Ago – Nov 2008




From this edition, we are introducing a new column titled "Time Capsule Chronicles" to revisit our PreSense editions, published exactly 15 years ago in the corresponding month. We wanted to establish to the readers that we have been maintaining the consistency of our quality of content.

November 2008 edition was Guest Edited by Michael G Cherenson APR, 2009 Chair and CEO, Public Relations Society of America, popularly known as PRSA. This edition carries the details and functions of this prestigious organisation, including the Accreditation procedures. This edition covers in detail the PRSA's International Conference on PR and Communication, held in October 2008.

Many experts have also shared their experiences and suggested various communication strategies, including crisis management.

A terror attack happened in Mumbai on November 26, 2008. PRSA Vice President has also shared his concern and message on the terror attack.

This edition has also carried a humorous Prince cartoon drawn by Triambak Sharma.

Please download this edition, published 15 years back in the same month, and enjoy.

https://www.prpoint.com/ezine/presense1108.pdf

## Susan's Musings

# Beyond Borders: The Resurgence of Namaste in a Globalised World

***By Susan Koshy, Former Editor in Chief, PreSense***

**Introduction**

Indian culture is the heritage of social norms of ethno-linguistically diverse India. The influence of the Indian culture can be seen even beyond the Indian sub-continent, particularly in Southeast Asia, spread through religion, migration, and colonisation. The Indian culture is influenced by history right from the Indus Valley civilisation through to the present.

Indian culture is reflected in India's languages, religions, arts, architecture, food, and customs. Some of the customary practices are tucked away in historical archives, occasionally revisited in libraries and folklore performances. Some others are still practised in society. One such practice is the Indian greeting, *Namaste*, a signature of Indian culture and hospitality.


**The above Rigveda manuscript contains the word 'namas' to mean 'reverential worship'.**

**The *Namaste* Greeting**

*Namaste* is an expression of worship, reverence, homage, and adoration in Vedic literature and many other early Hindu texts. It has also been found in ancient and medieval era sculpture and artwork in Hindu temples.

*Namaste* can be uttered with or without non-verbal gestures to complement it. Greeting with a gesture involves standing with folded hands, bowing the head, and saying *namaste*. This hand gesture is called *anjali mudra* and the standing posture is called *pranamasana*. The bow makes the greeting more formal and respectful, especially when greeting an elder or important person.

**Air India mascot, the Maharaja in welcome namaste**

*Namaste* means "bowing in respect to you". It also has a spiritual implication in the belief that "the divine and self (*atman* or soul) is same in you and me". Namaste here implies "I bow to the divine in you".

*Namaste* is expressed differently in different parts of India. In the North, it is either *namaste* or more formally *namaskar.* In South India, it is *namaskaramulu, namaskara*, *namaskaram* or *vanakkam*. In the East, it is *Nomoshkar* or *nomoskar*. *Namaskaram* is a respectful salutation to enlightened scholars and the deity.

*Namaste* gained renewed recognition during the Covid period of 2020-2022, in lieu of the handshake because **i**n *namaste*, the essence of goodwill and respect is not compromised, even as a hygienic 'no-contact' approach is practised.

Namaste as a greeting can be used when meeting someone, or before parting ways, or to express gratitude and thankfulness for the generosity or kindness shown. Namaste is a respectful greeting that is good for all times and all occasions. **Namaste!**

# Asha Bhosle: Harmony Beyond Melody - A Musical Maestro and A Culinary Genius

***By Suparna Gangal, Associate Editor***

Do you recognize the MasterChef at work in the kitchen? It is none other than, India's legendary singer Asha Bhosleji. She recently turned 90 years young, and I couldn't resist writing a tribute. As I sat down to collate my thoughts, I remembered Dr.Veena Dev, a very close family friend of Ashatai, as she is fondly called. I called up Veenaji and requested her to share an anecdote for my article. To my surprise, she chose to speak about Ashatai as a brilliant chef besides being a legendary singer.

She said, that while she was visiting Ashatai and staying with her for a couple of days, she saw her enter the kitchen and pack numerous big-sized lunch boxes. Surprised, She asked her as to why so much food was being packed. Ashaji simply said that today she wanted to feed the entire studio. That day before heading for the recording, Ashaji had got up early in the morning to prepare her world-class Biryani, enough for all the musicians and technicians numbering around 50. Had she not chosen to sing, no prize for guessing what alternate career she would have excelled at.

The fact that she chose to be a singer seems to be a huge personal blessing in hindsight. And it has nothing to do with my love for old Hindi songs.

I spent my childhood in Delhi and one fine day as my annual exam was over, excited to be free to go and play with friends, Mom simply made an announcement that shook me inside out. Dad had been selected for a new job and his joining date was immediate. We had to pack our bags, leave Delhi forever and move to Mumbai. My whole world revolved around my school, and my friends circle and this suddenness and not having a say in the matter annoyed me the most.

On the first Sunday after we landed, Mom requested Dad to set up the TV antenna. Those days there was just one channel, Doordarshan. As soon as we switched on the TV, to my delight and Mom's relief, my favourite music program was being aired. The first song that I heard was Ashaji's. I still remember how happy I was to hear her and the new place didn't seem too alien anymore. That day Doordarshan played a majority of Ashaji's songs and with every song my anger, frustration, and unease receded.

As naïve as it might sound, I clearly remember telling myself, that I now have a person in Mumbai, whom I can call upon to complain about my parents. What's even more wonderful is that she understands Hindi. For the uninitiated, having spent the formative years in Delhi, I was more fluent in Hindi than my mother tongue and knowing that Ashatai stayed in Mumbai where we had shifted, and also knowing that she spoke Hindi, seemed to be a backup plan if mom and dad erred again.

For me as well as for the innumerable people worldwide, Ashaji isn't just a voice, she is an emotion. I can't thank her enough for being a part of me always, and forever. I just wish I could do that in person over a meal that she makes for me. Being naïve sometimes is ok, even when you grow up.

## Freedom Fighters of India

## Matmur Jamoh

***By C. Badri, Consulting Editor***

***(Matmur Jamoh, a courageous Adi tribe warrior from North East, sought revenge against British oppression, assassinated officials in 1911, faced defeat, sentenced to life, and died in obscurity.)***

Matmur Jamoh was one of the earliest patriotic freedom fighters from the North East of India who fought against the British. As a punishment, he was sentenced to life imprisonment and was lodged in Kalapani, the Cellular Jail in Andaman Islands. He breathed his last there. He was one of the earliest freedom fighters who received the most severe punishment for fighting against the British.


Around the year 1826, the North East province of India was affixed as a part of the British East India Company. The initial resistance to the British rule triggered somewhere around the year 1828-1830 itself. Simultaneously, the tribal communities belonging to the hilly areas showed resistance by fighting several battles against the British to protect their lands and livelihood from the forest areas. In the process, countless tribals laid their lives and made sacrifices for the common cause of freedom of the tribals. The resistance and the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters were not well documented by the Historians or others for unknown reasons. Not properly documenting the heroic deeds of the freedom fighters from North East of India led to a perception amongst the people that there was no resistance to the British from the North East region of India. In this article, we bring to the fore some of the untold history of the freedom fighters who fought bravely against the British and sowed the seeds for the freedom movement from North East India. Matmur Jamoh of Arunachal Pradesh is one among such valiant freedom fighters from the North East India who opposed the British but remained largely not celebrated.

Adi tribesmen live in Pasighat which is in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district located in the eastern foothills of the Himalayas. Pasighat is one of the oldest towns in the North East of India. The British established Pasighat as a gateway to the greater Abor hills and northern Arunachal Pradesh, sometime in 1911. Matmur Jamoh was a warrior from the Adi tribe and was also the chief of Kebang. Kebang is a self-governing indigenous mechanism of the Adi Tribe. They also administer the day-to-day affairs of the village.

Matmur Jamoh was born in the later part of 1900 to Matdung Jamoh of Yagrung Village which was in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. There is no recorded evidence regarding

the name of his mother or the exact date of birth. He grew up and became the Gam of his village. Noel Williamson, the then Assistant Political Officer, serving under the British at Sadiya was taking a tour of the Adi (the then Abor) in 1908 and visited Yagrung. Matmur as Gam of the village received Williamson when he arrived at Yagrung with traditional courtesies. Matmur presented him with numerous presentations, but Noel Williamson not only refused the presents but also insulted and disgraced Matmur in front of the villagers in public. This incident left a deep scar in his heart and since then Matmur was determined to take revenge on Williamson. Matmur then started planning to take revenge against the British for intruding into the Adi territory. He persuaded some of the capable tribal warriors like Lotiang Taloh and Popiom Jamoh from Yagrung village, Lomlo Darang, and Bapak Jerang from Kebang and Lunrung Tamuk from Panggi village to revolt against the British.

In the meantime, the British used the tribals as labourers and coolies to transport their goods without paying any money and thus exploited them. The tribals were made to do menial jobs also. The British tried to show that they were superior to the Adi people and thus insulted them. In March 1911, Noel Williamson along with Dr. J.D.Gregorson and 44 others visited Adi Hills. During that time Matmur along with his accomplices also hatched a plan to assassinate them. They secretly planned and enticed the support of some people from the Rottung and Kebang villages. On 31 March 1911, Matmur along with his friends Namu Nonang and Lunrung Tamuk killed Williamson and his contingent of coolies. His other acquaintances from Kebang killed Dr. Gregorson and his coolies at the bank of the Sissen River.

Consequently, the British Government sent an army to the Adi Hills to counter Matmur and his accomplices and to capture them. Several battles took place between the two sides viz. between the people of Adi Hills and the British army. Adis ultimately lost the war to the British. By December 1911, after the battle at Kekar Monying and Kebang, Matmur keeping in mind the welfare and safety of his people surrendered to the British. The British Military Court tried him for treachery. On 2 April 1912, Matmur was convicted and sentenced to life. He was then shifted to Cellular Jail in Andaman. Details about Matmur's death had not been recorded anywhere in the Cellular Jail records. Matmur, a great brave freedom fighter from the North East, thus died in obscurity.

Long live the name and fame of Matmur Jamoh. JAI HIND

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PRO BE NSE

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