

PreSense Speaks Series

Editorials 2025

**Prime Point Srinivasan
Ramesh Sundaram**

Prime Point Foundation

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's Foreword for PreSense100

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



10, Rajaji Marg
New Delhi-110011

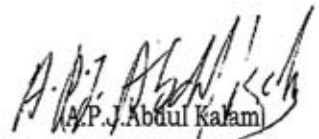
FOREWORD

I am very happy to know that the PreSense monthly ezine published by Prime Point Foundation is bringing out a book based on some of the unique articles, interviews and events published in its editions so far since from March 2006. The 100 issues of the publication have gone through an eventful journey, focusing on knowledge capture and important knowledge dissemination. I recollect my direct association with PreSense in July 2008, when I launched the cartoon character, 'Prince', created exclusively for PreSense.

I see PreSense continuing in its journey under the mentorship of Prime Point Srinivasan, maintaining its status as a must-read ezine, in the fast moving and evolving world of communication, knowledge and connectivity.

I congratulate the Editorial Team of PreSense for bringing out the 100th Edition as a Collector's Digest.

28th May 2015


(A.P.J. Abdul Kalam)

About Prime Point Foundation



PRIME POINT Foundation

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

In the past 26 years, the Foundation has organised several seminars, workshops, training and interactive sessions, both offline and online, on various subjects of national interest. The Foundation manages various online discussion groups and podcasts on communication and digital journalism.

The Foundation has started 5 initiatives viz. eMagazine PreSense, Sansad Ratna Awards, Next Gen Political Leaders, Digital Journalists Association of India and Education Loan Task Force, to create awareness in various domains. All these initiatives are managed independently by passionate experts. These initiatives are non-commercial, and focussed on youth.

About eMagazine PreSense



PreSense: The eMagazine PreSense was started in March 2006 on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to promote positive journalism. Till March 2026, the Foundation has published 229 editions. Dr Abdul Kalam has written the foreword for the Digest of articles up to 100 editions. PreSense publishes the cartoon character Prince, which was launched by Dr Abdul Kalam in 2008.

PreSense Speaks Series

Editorials 2025

**Prime Point Srinivasan
Ramesh Sundaram**

Prime Point Foundation

PreSense Speaks: Editorials 2025

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WWebsites www.primepointfoundation.org
www.corpezine.com
editor@corpezine.com

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Introduction

Dedication



To **Lord Sri Krishna**, the Almighty, my eternal guide and strength. Like the flute that sings only through His touch, this book flows through His divine will. May it serve as an offering at His Feet and illuminate minds with wisdom and purpose.

🙏 Jai Shri Krishna! 🙏

Foreword From Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam For The PreSense100

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



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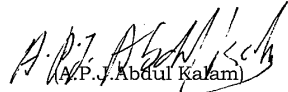
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28th May 2015


(A.P.J. Abdul Kalam)

Author's Profile – Prime Point Srinivasan



K. Srinivasan, popularly known as Prime Point Srinivasan, after serving the banking industry for more than 25 years, took voluntary retirement in 1998 to start his own public relations and communication consultancy.

He also founded Prime Point Foundation in 1999 for promoting communication awareness. On the suggestion of Dr Abdul Kalam, he started an eMagazine PreSense in 2006 for positive journalism and also Sansad Ratna Awards in 2010 to honour the outstanding Parliamentarians.

He founded other flagship initiatives like the Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI) and Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL).

He is considered as one of the communication and perception management experts. He introduced the concept of Image Audit to study the hidden perception of stakeholders. He has authored several books and received several awards for his digital journalism.

Srinivasan can be reached at prpoint@gmail.com

Please visit www.corpezine.com

Author's Profile – Ramesh Sundaram



Ramesh Sundaram brings over 35 years of journalism expertise from The Hindu, one of India's most respected newspapers. Throughout his distinguished career, he mastered the vital craft of editing and proofreading—the backbone of quality journalism.

Today, he shares his wealth of knowledge with aspiring journalists, teaching them the fine art of editing and proofreading. His book "Stylebook for Digital Journalists" has become an essential guide for young professionals entering the field.

Currently serving as Joint Managing Editor of PreSense, Ramesh contributes well-researched articles every month. He also lends his experience to the Advisory Board of the Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI) and the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee.

Beyond journalism, Ramesh has excelled in printing technology and won numerous prizes in essay writing and quiz competitions. He is an avid reader with a passion for long-distance walking events. He has also translated several books from Tamil to English, bridging languages and cultures.

Connect with Ramesh at ramactiva1956@gmail.com

Prime Point Foundation: 25 Years of Empowering India's Youth



**PRIME POINT
Foundation**

Since 1999, Prime Point Foundation has been helping young Indians become better leaders and communicators. Founded by Shri K Srinivasan, a former banker turned digital journalist, this non-profit organisation has grown into one of India's most respected youth development platforms.

What We Do

The Foundation runs five key initiatives that make a real difference:

eMagazine PreSense - Started in 2006 following Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's suggestion, this digital magazine promotes positive journalism. With 229 editions published till March 2026 and recognition from the India Book of Records, it includes the popular cartoon character Prince, which Dr Kalam himself launched in 2008.



Sansad Ratna Awards - Since 2010, these prestigious awards honour India's best-performing MPs and Parliamentary Committees. Dr Kalam inaugurated the first ceremony, and over 15 years, 143 Awards have



been presented. The India Book of Records acknowledges this as the largest parliamentary award programme run by civil society.

Next Gen Political Leaders - This programme trains young



people who want to enter politics, connecting them with experienced

Ministers and MPs through workshops and mentoring sessions.

Education Loan Task Force - Helping students and

Education Loan Task Force

ELTF

families understand education loans since 2010. The team has answered over 30,000 questions and helped resolve 5,000 serious

complaints with banks.

Digital Journalists Association of India - Training



journalists to adapt to the digital age, including AI through workshops and seminars with industry experts.

All programmes are run by passionate volunteers and focus entirely on helping young people succeed. Prime Point Foundation proves that dedicated efforts can create lasting changes in Indian democracy and society.

Publisher's Note

The year 2025 was a defining period for Indian democracy, marked by significant structural reforms, internal security challenges, and evolving judicial dialogues. **PreSense Speaks: Editorials 2025** serves as a curated collection of these pivotal moments, meticulously documented to provide readers with a balanced and insightful perspective on the nation's journey.

Authored by **Prime Point Srinivasan** (Managing Editor) and **Ramesh Sundaram** (Joint Managing Editor), this volume brings together the year's editorials to preserve the narrative of a changing India for students, researchers, and engaged citizens. Our mission remains rooted in the "positive journalism" suggested by **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**, focusing on accountability and constructive discourse.

A Year of Reflection and Action

The collection opens with a deep dive into the **UGC Draft Regulations 2025**, examining the delicate balance between national education standards and State autonomy. It further explores the ethical fabric of our society in "Humility in a World of Temporary Triumphs," using the life of Dr Kalam as a beacon of grounded leadership.

Critical national security issues are addressed through:

- **Operation Sindoor:** An analysis of India's decisive military response to cross-border terrorism following the tragic Pahalgam attack.
- **The Peace Mission:** A revival of C. Rajagopalachari's (Rajaji) 1962 diplomatic legacy, urging a modern "Rajaji Doctrine" for global conflict resolution.
- **Regional Stability:** Warnings from unrest in **Ladakh** and its parallels with youth-led upheavals in neighbouring South Asian nations.

Strengthening Democracy

The editorials also tackle institutional health, from the "Grammar of Anarchy" seen in parliamentary disruptions to the weaponisation of impeachment notices against the judiciary. We also examine the **2025 Bihar Verdict**, providing a masterclass in electoral strategy and the power of the "silent" female voter.

As we navigate the digital age, we highlight India's new fight against **deepfakes** and the critical need for transparency in AI-generated content.

We invite you to read this book fully. It is not merely a record of the past year, but a roadmap for the future. By understanding these complexities, we empower ourselves to contribute meaningfully to the "Vishwa Guru" India aspires to be.

“Yet, there are exceptions — rare souls who, despite standing at the pinnacle of success, never let go of their humility. One such extraordinary individual was Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Rising from humble beginnings to become the President of India, he remained grounded, always accessible, always kind. Power never altered his essence. He understood that positions come and go, but the way one treats people is what truly endures. Even today, long after he has left this world, he lives on — not in the grandeur of titles, but in the hearts of those who admired his humility.”

***- Prime Point Srinivasan
(Page 27)***

Editorials 2025

“The challenge before Indian media, political leadership, and civil society is to resist the temptation of expedient narratives that glorify negativity and instead promote a culture of accountability, lawfulness, and genuine concern for victims of crime and terrorism. This reorientation of public discourse is essential for the health of Indian democracy and the moral fabric of its society.”

***- Ramesh Sundaram
(Page 35)***

UGC Draft Regulations 2025: A Balancing Act for India's Higher Education

(Published in Jan 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Managing Editor)

(The UGC Draft Regulations 2025 aim to reform faculty appointments but face opposition from States over autonomy concerns. A balanced, consultative approach is crucial.)



The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently unveiled its draft regulations 2025, sparking a heated debate across India's educational landscape. These regulations, officially titled "UGC Regulations (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers

and Academic Staff in Universities & Colleges & Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education Institutions)", aim to overhaul the appointment process for academic leadership and faculty in higher education institutions. However, they have met with significant resistance from some State Governments, raising questions about federalism and the future of India's higher education system. The State Assemblies of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have passed resolutions against the Draft regulations.

Key Features of the Draft Regulations

The draft UGC Regulations 2025 proposes several significant changes:

1. **Merit-based Selection:** The selection of Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors will be based on merit through all-India advertisements.
2. **Selection Committee Composition:** A Selection Committee, constituted under UGC regulations, will conduct the selection process.
3. **Vice-Chancellor Appointment:** The most contentious issue is the proposed composition of the Search and Selection Committee for Vice-Chancellors. It would comprise:
 - A nominee of the Visitor/Chancellor (Chairperson)
 - A nominee of the UGC Chairman

- A nominee of the university's apex body (e.g., Syndicate, Senate)
- 4. **Appointment Process:** The Search and Selection Committee will shortlist candidates for the Chancellor/Visitor to appoint the Vice-Chancellor.
- 5. The Chancellor/Visitor of the University shall appoint the Vice-Chancellor out of these short-listed candidates.
- 6. **Compliance Measures:** Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) violating these regulations may face debarment from UGC schemes.

State Government Objections

Several non-BJP States have vehemently opposed the draft regulations, viewing them as an encroachment on their autonomy in education matters.

Tamil Nadu's Stance

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has raised significant objections:

1. **Conflict with State Policies:** The draft regulations are seen as conflicting with the State's educational system and policies.
2. **Lack of Consultation:** Tamil Nadu argues that States were not consulted before the draft¹ was released.
3. **Legislative Opposition:** The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution against the draft, particularly

objecting to the proposed power given to the Governor/Chancellor in Vice-Chancellor selection.

Kerala's Opposition

Kerala has also taken a strong stance against the regulations:

1. **Federal Principles:** The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to withdraw the regulations, deeming them against federal principles.
2. **Commercialisation Concerns:** Some fear that allowing Vice-Chancellor appointments from the private sector might commercialise education.
3. **Funding Disparity:** Kerala highlighted that States bear 80% of higher education funding, questioning the Centre's extensive role in appointments.

Legal and Constitutional Concerns

The draft regulations raise several legal and constitutional questions:

1. **UGC's Mandate:** Experts question whether the UGC Act empowers the Commission to regulate university faculty selection.
2. **Constitutional Role:** According to the Constitution, the UGC's role is limited to coordinating and maintaining education standards, not direct involvement in appointments.

3. **Concurrent List:** Education is included in the Concurrent List and requires a balanced approach between the Central and State Governments.

Potential Impact on Higher Education Quality

Proponents of the draft regulations, including the UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar, argue that these changes will enhance clarity, efficiency, and transparency in faculty recruitment. They contend that the regulations aim to align higher education with national needs and international standards. However, critics argue that:

1. **Local Needs:** The centralised approach may not adequately address diverse local educational needs across States.
2. **Academic Autonomy:** There are concerns about potential infringement on institutional autonomy and academic freedom.
3. **Systemic Issues:** Some experts suggest that the real issue lies in the deep-rooted corruption in universities, which mere changes in selection processes may not address.

International Perspective

Globally, higher education governance varies, but many countries with federal structures maintain a balance between national standards and local autonomy. For instance:

1. **United States:** Universities have significant autonomy, with accreditation bodies ensuring quality standards.
2. **Germany:** Länder (States) have primary responsibility for education, with federal involvement in research funding and framework legislation.
3. **Australia:** This is a mixed model in which the federal government plays a significant role in funding and policy, but the States retain some control over education.

These foreign models may not necessarily suit Indian education. We need not copycat them but take the best practices out of their system and adapt it to enhance our educational standards.

The Way Forward

To address the concerns raised and improve the draft regulations, the following steps could be considered:

1. **Stakeholder Consultation:** To refine the regulations, conduct extensive consultations with State Governments, academicians, students, industry leaders and other stakeholders.
2. **Balanced Representation:** Consider modifying the selection committee composition to ensure adequate State representation while maintaining high standards.

3. **Flexibility Framework:** Develop a framework that allows for some flexibility in implementation across States while ensuring core quality standards.
4. **Focus on Outcomes:** Shift the emphasis from appointment control to measurable outcomes in education quality and research output.
5. **Capacity Building:** Invest in programmes to enhance the capabilities of existing university faculty and administrators.
6. **Elimination of corruption:** Presently many State Governments are accused of corrupt practices in the appointments of faculty members and Vice Chancellors. The regulations should eliminate the corrupt practices in the administration.

Conclusion

The UGC Draft Regulations 2025 represent a significant attempt to reform India's higher education system. While the intention to improve education quality and bring uniformity is commendable, the concerns raised by States regarding federalism and local autonomy cannot be ignored. The debate has unfortunately taken a political turn, with the quality of education taking a backseat to power struggles. It is crucial to return to the drawing board and engage in comprehensive discussions with all stakeholders.

The focus should be on finding an amicable solution that balances the need for national standards while preserving State autonomy in education. Ultimately, the goal should be to enhance the quality of education and research in Indian universities, preparing students for global challenges while addressing local needs. As India aspires to become a knowledge superpower, reforms in higher education must be implemented thoughtfully, considering both immediate concerns and long-term vision. Changing the method of selection of Vice Chancellors will not change the present outdated education system. It is pertinent here that the India Skills Report of 2024 says that only 51 per cent of graduates coming out of the institutions are employable. India Employment Report of this year says 83 per cent of unemployed people is youth aged between 15 and 29. This is alarming. It is a paradox that higher the education, higher is the unemployment and underemployment. This should change. All the graduates should have employability skills when they enter the job market. The UGC Draft Regulations 2025 could be a stepping stone towards this goal, provided they are refined through collaborative efforts and implemented with sensitivity to India's diverse educational landscape.

Humility in a World of Temporary Triumphs

(Published in the Jan 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)

(Success and power do not last forever, like temple flowers that are replaced daily. True greatness comes from humility, kindness, and valuing relationships over temporary fame.)



It was a quiet morning at the grand temple, the air filled with

the lingering fragrance of fresh jasmine and roses. Devotees streamed in, heads bowed, hearts whispering silent prayers. Just outside, a worker carefully removed the garlands that had adorned the deity the previous day, placing them gently into a basket before discarding them into the waste bin. Those very flowers, which had been the centre of reverence just a few hours ago, were now forgotten, their purpose seemingly over.

This simple act, repeated every day, carries a profound lesson — one that many fail to recognise. The flowers, once revered, now lie discarded, making way for new ones. In much the same way, life elevates people to positions of power and influence, only to replace them in time. Yet, how often do those who rise to prominence understand the fleeting nature of their glory?

In our daily lives, we see individuals ascend rapidly — whether in corporate boardrooms, political offices, or social circles. Like the temple flowers, they bask in admiration and praise. But power has a way of clouding humility. Many begin to believe in the permanence of their position, distancing themselves from friends, well-wishers, and those who once stood by them. They become unreachable, their words tinged with arrogance, their actions fuelled by entitlement. The more they climb, the more they alienate, mistaking temporary adulation for eternal reverence.

But time is relentless. Just as new flowers replace the old in the temple, new faces inevitably take their place. The moment of reckoning arrives, often without warning. One day, they are revered; the next, they find themselves alone, struggling to understand where it all went wrong. By then, the damage is done. True relationships, built over years, have withered. The support they once took for granted has disappeared. They stand at the edge of irrelevance, discarded like yesterday's flowers, watching as others step into the spotlight.

This cycle repeats endlessly, yet so many fail to grasp its inevitability. For fleeting success, they sacrifice lasting bonds. For temporary power, they neglect timeless virtues. It is a pattern we witness time and again, in history, in society, in the world around us.

Yet, there are exceptions — rare souls who, despite standing at the pinnacle of success, never let go of their humility. One such extraordinary individual was Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Rising from humble beginnings to become the President of India, he remained grounded, always accessible, always kind. Power never altered his essence. He understood that positions come and go, but the way one treats people is what truly endures. Even today, long after he has left this world, he lives on — not in the grandeur of titles, but in the hearts of those who admired his humility.



Life is transient, and so is the honour it bestows. Let us learn from the flowers of the temple. Let us embrace success with grace and relinquish it with dignity. Above all, let us remember that it is not our position but our character that determines our true legacy.

Promoting Truth: Upholding Law Over Glorifying Wrongdoers

(Published in Feb 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Managing Editor)

(The editorial highlights the need for responsible media and political leadership in India. It encourages focusing on lawfulness and accountability instead of glorifying illegal activities and wrongdoing.)

In recent years, India has witnessed a concerning trend where negativity and illegal actions are increasingly glorified by the traditional and social media platforms. This pattern of celebration, rather than the condemnation of wrongdoings, poses significant challenges to the rule of law and sends problematic messages to society. The following analysis examines several instances of this phenomenon and explores its implications for Indian society.

The Glorification of Illegal Immigration

The recent deportation of 104 illegal immigrants by the US Government attracted substantial media attention in India. These individuals, predominantly from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, were transported to India in handcuffs,

following standard American deportation protocols. Rather than acknowledging the illegality of their actions, many political leaders across party lines condemned the US approach, portraying these individuals as victims of harsh treatment.



In reality, these deportees had entered the United States without valid documentation, often with assistance from

unscrupulous agents, and while risking their lives in the process. No sovereign nation tolerates illegal immigration, and indeed India's own Supreme Court has repeatedly questioned the government regarding the deportation of illegal immigrants residing within Indian borders. A retired Indian Foreign Service official, speaking anonymously to PreSense, commented, "These deported illegal immigrants should have been charged, and FIRs should have been registered against them in India for their illegal transactions."

Unfortunately, political leaders and media outlets largely failed to address the criminal nature of these actions or focus on the unscrupulous brokers who facilitate such illegal migration. The American Government's strict handling of the situation likely intended to discourage others from attempting similar illegal entry. From an objective standpoint, when the US Government follows its established procedures, external criticism becomes problematic. Instead, the focus should be on educating citizens about lawful migration processes to avoid such unpleasant consequences. Sadly, the glorification of individuals who have committed offences often stems from vote bank politics. To their credit, the Indian Government handled this diplomatic situation with appropriate restraint.

The Questionable Response to the Hooch Tragedy

Last year, 65 persons died after consuming illicit liquor in Kallakurichi, Tamil Nadu. The State Government responded by paying an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10 lakhs to the families of each victim. This decision sparked debate, with some intellectuals questioning the rationale behind such generous compensation for deaths resulting from illegal activities, especially when compared to the compensation offered to families of fallen soldiers or freedom fighters. Controversially, opposition leaders demanded the compensation be increased to ₹25 lakhs per family.

The political dynamics became further complicated as the victims predominantly belonged to Dalit communities, prompting political leaders to engage in identity-based politics. Reports suggested that the illicit liquor had been distributed by local political operatives, and the government's substantial compensation package may have been designed to deflect further controversy. Throughout this episode, minimal discussion occurred regarding punishing those responsible for the 65 deaths or implementing measures to prevent similar tragedies. Even a Public Interest Litigation filed against the disproportionate compensation in the Madras High Court was dismissed. While PreSense expresses sincere sympathy for the bereaved families, the lack of focus on holding the perpetrators accountable remains troubling.

Commemorating Terror: A Disturbing Pattern

The March 1993 serial blasts in Mumbai resulted in 175 fatalities. Yakub Memon, identified as a key mastermind behind these attacks, was executed in July 2015. His funeral procession in Mumbai on 30th July 2015 drew a



Funeral procession of Yakub Menon, Terrorist at Mumbai

staggering crowd of over 15,000 participants, effectively transforming a solemn occasion into a public demonstration.

In another tragic incident, in Feb 1998, Coimbatore experienced 12 explosions across 11 locations, resulting in 58 deaths. S.A. Basha, considered the architect of these attacks, received a prison sentence but was later released on parole due to health concerns. Following his death while on parole, thousands attended his funeral procession, which proceeded with police protection and the participation of various political figures. Throughout these commemorations, the suffering of the 58 innocent victims' families seemed entirely forgotten by the public discourse.

The Dangers of Normalising Negativity

These examples represent merely a fraction of instances where negative actions receive inappropriate glorification in Indian society. Unfortunately, media organisations and political leaders frequently engage in such glorification for commercial gain or political advantage. While PreSense acknowledges the sensitivity required when addressing issues affecting vulnerable populations, even when they involve illegal activities, there remains a responsibility for media and political leadership to address underlying offences straightforwardly.

Only through honest discourse can society create awareness that prevents innocent individuals from falling prey to harmful influences. The ongoing normalisation of wrongdoing creates a distorted value system where perpetrators receive sympathy while victims fade into

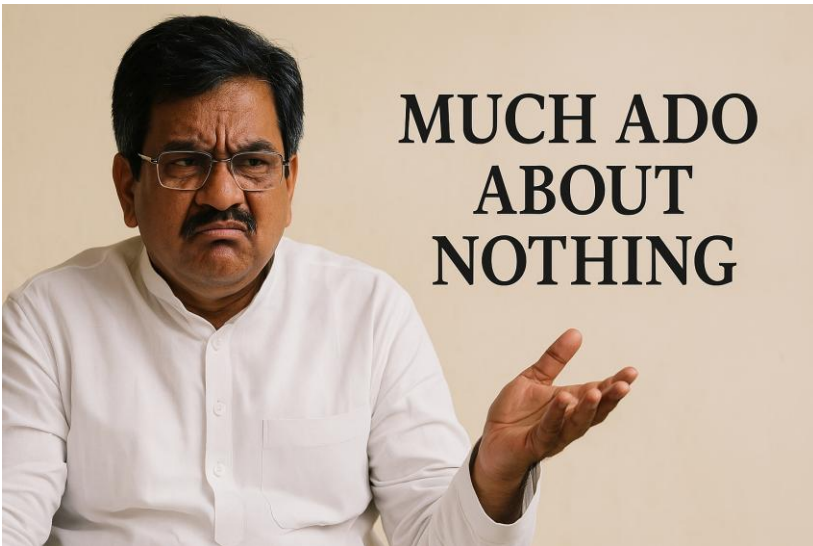
obscurity. If this trend continues, it threatens to undermine the foundations of law, justice, and social harmony that are essential to India's democratic framework.

The challenge before Indian media, political leadership, and civil society is to resist the temptation of expedient narratives that glorify negativity and instead promote a culture of accountability, lawfulness, and genuine concern for victims of crime and terrorism. This reorientation of public discourse is essential for the health of Indian democracy and the moral fabric of its society.

Much Ado About Nothing: The Delimitation Distraction

*(Published in Mar 2025 edition of PreSense, authored
by Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Managing Editor)*

*(The editorial urges political leaders to stop protesting
delimitation, as it is years away, and focus instead on
pressing issues affecting citizens today. Parliament
must prioritise responsibly.)*



A Political Storm Over an Issue Not Yet on the Horizon

In recent weeks, a political tempest has brewed over the proposed delimitation of parliamentary constituencies—a move that, ironically, is not due anytime soon. Several opposition parties have vociferously objected, alleging potential injustice to southern States, and even gone so far as to disrupt proceedings in Parliament. But upon closer examination, the issue seems less urgent than portrayed. Is this a matter that demands immediate national attention or a strategic smokescreen to deflect from other pressing failures?

What is Delimitation, and why is it Contentious?

Delimitation is the redrawing of boundaries for Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies to reflect population shifts. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation based on demographic changes. The process is rooted in Article 82 and Article 170 of the Constitution and conducted by an independent Delimitation Commission appointed by the President, consisting of a retired Supreme Court judge, the Chief Election Commissioner, and State Election Commissioners.

Though the principles appear straightforward, the political implications are complex. Critics from southern States argue that delimitation based on population data would reward States with high birth rates—primarily in the north—while punishing those States that have diligently implemented population control measures.

The Historical Background: From 1952 to 2026

Delimitation is not a new concept in India. It has been undertaken four times based on Census Data in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002. However, the political sensitivity around population control led to significant constitutional interventions.

- 1976: 42nd Constitutional Amendment

Amid the Emergency, the 42nd Amendment froze the number of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats until 2000, based on the 1971 Census. This was done to encourage States to focus on family planning without the fear of losing representation.

- 2001: 84th Constitutional Amendment

As the 2000 deadline approached, many States were still at different stages of demographic transition. To prevent representation distortions, the 84th Amendment extended the freeze until 2026. Notably, it allowed for internal boundary readjustments without altering the number of seats, using Census data from 1991.

- 2003: 87th Amendment

This permitted the delimitation of constituencies using 2001 Census figures, again without changing the total number of seats.

Southern States' Concerns: Genuine or Political?

Southern States, particularly Tamil Nadu and Kerala, are understandably anxious. Having invested heavily in population stabilisation and social development, they fear a loss of political weight if representation is tied strictly to headcount. Conversely, northern States, where population growth remains high, stand to gain.

There's also apprehension that population-based delimitation may affect financial devolution, reinforcing regional disparities in central allocations.

While the concerns may have some merit, one must question the timing of this uproar.

Delimitation Cannot Happen Now — Here's Why

Despite the noise, delimitation cannot legally occur before 2026. The 84th Amendment explicitly freezes seat reallocation until the first Census after 2026. Notably, the Constitution does not mandate exactly when this Census must be conducted—it could be in 2031 or even much later.

Even after the Census is completed, the process is lengthy:

1. Census Compilation – It may take at least 2 years post-enumeration.
2. Formation of Delimitation Commission – Requires parliamentary action and presidential notification.
3. Stakeholder Consultations – Political parties, State Governments, and civil society will be invited to present their views.

4. Preparation and Publication of Reports – Followed by discussions in Parliament and State Assemblies.
5. Possible Constitutional Amendment – Any change to the number of Lok Sabha seats will require a formal amendment.

In short, the actual implementation may not occur before 2033.

The Legal Framework: Final but Not Rushed

The Delimitation Commission's decisions, once published, are final and legally binding—they cannot be challenged in court, barring exceptional circumstances, including cases against the delimitation exercise conducted in Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir. However, the Commission will ensure transparency, accommodate objections, and uphold fairness.

Is This a Political Diversion?

Given the timeline, the recent political furore appears to be more a matter of political theatre than legislative necessity. Some parties currently facing public scrutiny over governance failures, corruption scandals, or

■ **DELIMITATION
NOT IMMINENT**

 **MISPLACED
POLITICAL FOCUS**

 **PRIORITISE
PRESENT
CHALLENGES**

internal dissent may find it convenient to stir up sentiment around a distant issue.

It is also worth noting that this issue resurfaced just as Parliament was scheduled to discuss other critical matters, including economic recovery, inflation, job creation, and national security. Focusing national attention on a non-imminent issue may be an attempt by certain groups to deflect from uncomfortable debates.

Let Parliament Focus on the Present, Not the Distant Future

In any robust democracy, Parliament must prioritise issues directly affecting the people in the here and now—rising food prices, healthcare gaps, education quality, agricultural reforms, environmental challenges, and digital infrastructure development.

Spending precious parliamentary time by debating a hypothetical scenario that may not materialise for another eight years is unproductive and disingenuous.

Conclusion: Let us Cross the Bridge When We Come to It

India's Constitution provides ample time and process for inclusive, reasoned deliberation on delimitation. When the time comes—likely around 2033—all stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, and the electorate, will have the opportunity to express their views.

Until then, there is no need for manufactured outrage or legislative standstills. The old saying goes, “Let us cross the bridge when we come to it.” Parliament and political leaders must focus their attention on urgent, real-world problems that need resolution today—not in the distant tomorrow.

Bloodshed in Paradise: Pahalgam Attack Exposes Pakistan's Terror Strategy

*(Published in the April 2025 edition of PreSense
authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)*

*(The Pahalgam terror attack exposed Pakistan's
ongoing support for cross-border terrorism,
demanding India's united political, military, and
societal response to defend national security.)*

The horrific terrorist attack at Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley on 22 April 2025 has once again exposed the fragility of peace in the region and Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism. As India mourns the loss of 26 innocent lives, this tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the persistent threat posed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and the urgent need for national unity in the face of such barbaric acts. The attack, deliberately targeting Hindu tourists in one of Kashmir's most picturesque locations, has reignited tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours and demands a unified response from all sections of Indian society.

A Historical Pattern of Aggression: Pakistan's Terror Campaign Since 1947

The Pahalgam attack represents yet another chapter in Pakistan's long history of aggression against India. Since the Partition in 1947, Pakistan has consistently used terrorism as a state policy to destabilise India. The first Kashmir War of 1947-48 began when Pakistan feared Kashmir would accede to India and sent tribal forces to occupy parts of the princely State. This pattern of aggression continued with the 1965 war, following Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar, designed to infiltrate forces into Jammu and Kashmir to precipitate an insurgency.



The 1971 war, precipitated by the political crisis in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), saw Pakistan launch

Operation Chengiz Khan, bombing Indian airfields. However, India's military prowess led to Pakistan's humiliating defeat and the creation of Bangladesh, with approximately 90,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendering to Indian forces.

In subsequent decades, Pakistan shifted its strategy towards proxy warfare, supporting terrorist groups to wage a "thousand cuts" against India. The 1989 uprising in Kashmir saw Pakistan capitalising upon the resistance movement to undermine Indian control. The 1999 Kargil War, 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2008 Mumbai siege, which killed 166 people, including 6 Americans, all bear Pakistan's fingerprints, with the latter attributed to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group with alleged ties to Pakistan's intelligence agency.

The February 2019 attack on Indian paramilitary forces in Pulwama, claimed by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, killed at least forty soldiers and led to Indian air strikes on terrorist camps within Pakistani territory. This historical record demonstrates Pakistan's unwavering commitment to using terrorism as a strategic tool against India.

The Pahalgam Massacre: Religious Targeting and Cold-Blooded Execution



The Pahalgam attack stands out for its brutality and explicit religious targeting. On 22nd April 2025, five terrorists armed with M4 carbines and AK-47s entered the tourist spot of Baisaran Valley, surrounded by dense pine forests and accessible only on foot or horseback. The attackers, wearing military-style uniforms, deliberately singled out Hindu tourists in a meticulously planned assault.

Survivors recounted how the terrorists asked for the names and religions of the victims before shooting them. Some tourists were forced to recite the Islamic verse of *Kalima* to segregate them by religion. Men were forced to remove their trousers to check for circumcision before being shot at point-blank range. Video footage captured scenes of panic with injured victims pleading for help and bodies strewn across the ground.

Of the 26 people killed, 25 were tourists and one was a local Muslim pony operator named Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who heroically tried to protect the tourists by wrestling a gun from one of the attackers before being shot. The remaining victims included tourists from 15 different Indian States and Nepal, demonstrating the nationwide impact of this tragedy. The attackers even took selfies with dead bodies, displaying a disturbing level of depravity.

The Resistance Front (TRF), believed to be an offshoot of the Pakistan-based UN-designated terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, initially claimed responsibility before retracting their statement four days later. Intelligence reports suggest the same terror module was also responsible for killing six labourers and a doctor in 2024.

India's Decisive Response and Escalating Tensions

The Indian government's response to the Pahalgam attack has been swift and multi-pronged. India accused Pakistan of supporting cross-border terrorism and implemented several retaliatory measures:



- Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, potentially restricting Pakistan's water supply
- Expulsion of Pakistani diplomats and closure of borders
- Severing diplomatic ties and suspending visas for Pakistani nationals

Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the "perpetrators and conspirators" of the Pahalgam attack will be "served with the harshest response". He asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of India's response.

As Modi stated, "it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism". Border skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani forces began along the Line of Control on 24th April 2025, and India closed its airspace to Pakistani airlines on 30th April. These developments have led to what many analysts describe as the most significant bilateral confrontation since 2019.

Politics Over National Security: Opposition Opportunism Amid Crisis

Even as the nation grapples with this tragedy, certain opposition elements have unfortunately chosen to politicise the issue for electoral gain. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge criticised Prime Minister Modi for not attending an all-party meeting on the Pahalgam attack, questioning why Modi was addressing an election rally in Bihar instead. This criticism comes despite Modi giving the armed forces "complete operational freedom" to respond to the attack.

While Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi appropriately stated that "those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack must pay the price" and that the Government has the opposition's "100 per cent support", his party colleagues have been less united in their stance. Such political point-scoring during a national security crisis inadvertently provides Pakistan with propaganda material to deflect blame and sow division.

Pakistan routinely quotes Indian opposition leaders' criticisms in international forums to claim that even Indians don't support their Government's position. This weakens India's diplomatic offensive and emboldens our adversaries.

It may be recalled that during the 1971 Indo-Pak War and again in 1991 during economic crisis, then opposition leaders Vajpayee and Advani stood with the Government during the crisis without giving adverse comments for their political gains. Sadly, some present-day opposition leaders lack that maturity.

Religious Unity in Crisis: The Need for Stronger Condemnation

While several Muslim organisations have condemned the terror attack, with the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) pausing its protest programmes against the Waqf law for three days in solidarity with the victims' families, a more forceful rejection of Pakistan's terror tactics is needed.

Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, head of the All-India Imam Organisation, announced that imams of more than 5.5 lakh mosques would give a strong message against terrorism during Friday prayers. He rightly stated that "killing innocent people based on religion is not only against Islam, but against humanity".

However, these condemnations must explicitly name Pakistan as the sponsor of terrorism to counter the narrative

that seeks to divide Indians along religious lines. The terrorists' deliberate targeting of Hindus aims to create communal discord within India, a strategy that can only be defeated through unequivocal condemnation from all religious communities.

Elections and Security: The Governance Challenge in Jammu and Kashmir

The Supreme Court's December 2023 directive to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 2024 came despite the Government's concerns about security readiness. Following the August 2019 revocation of Article 370 and the region's special status, Kashmir had witnessed relative calm and development progress until the recent elections.

The Legislative Assembly elections held between 18 September and 1 October 2024 resulted in the INDIA alliance winning a majority, with the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) emerging as the single largest party. However, this political transition has coincided with a resurgence in terrorist activity.

While law and order in Jammu and Kashmir now falls primarily under the purview of the State Government, opposition parties have focused their criticism exclusively on Prime Minister Modi for political gain, rather than holding the Chief Minister accountable for local security failures.

International Media: Whitewashing Terror

The Western media's coverage of the Pahalgam attack has been problematic, with major outlets like the New York Times, BBC, CNN, Reuters, and the Guardian referring to the perpetrators as "militants" or "gunmen" rather than terrorists, and describing the massacre as a "shooting". This semantic softening downplays the ideological and religious motives behind the attack.

The US government's House Foreign Affairs Committee publicly rebuked the New York Times, replacing "militants" with "terrorists" in bold red in an edited version of their headline, declaring that this attack was "unequivocally a terrorist act".

The Path Forward: Unity Against Terror

In this moment of national crisis, India must stand united against terrorism. The government should pursue a multi-dimensional strategy:

1. Maintain diplomatic pressure on Pakistan while building international consensus against state-sponsored terrorism
2. Strengthen the security apparatus in Kashmir without compromising on development initiatives
3. Engage constructively with all political stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir
4. Counter radicalisation through community outreach and education

Political parties must prioritise national security over electoral considerations. Opposition criticism, when necessary, should be constructive rather than divisive. Religious leaders from all communities must vociferously condemn terrorism sponsored by Pakistan and promote interfaith harmony.

The Pahalgam attack is not merely an assault on tourists; it is an attack on India's sovereignty and pluralistic ethos. As Prime Minister Modi stated, the perpetrators will face "the harshest response". However, the most effective response will be a united India that refuses to be divided along religious or political lines, precisely what the terrorists and their sponsors hope to achieve.

In the words of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, "The Prime Minister has to take action. Action has to be clear and strong". On this principle, all Indians must stand together, transcending political differences in the face of this grave national security challenge.

Operation Sindoor: India's Strong Message Against Terrorism

(Published in May 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Mg. Editor)

(Operation Sindoor showed India's fierce resolve—swiftly avenging a brutal terror attack with precision strikes, global poise, and national unity. A bold message: India stands unshaken.)



On 22nd April 2025, the country woke up to one of the most heartbreaking incidents in recent memory. A group of innocent tourists visiting Pahalgam, Kashmir, was attacked by terrorists. 26 people lost their lives – 25 Indians and one

Nepali national. This wasn't just a random act of violence. The attackers deliberately targeted people based on their religion – all the victims were Hindus except one Muslim who died trying to stop a terrorist. This brutal incident was a painful reminder of the hate and terror being spread across the border.

These terrorists were from The Resistance Front (TRF), a group backed by the notorious Lashkar-e-Taiba, and included both Pakistani nationals and local militants. The attack shocked the entire nation and brought people together in grief and anger.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on an official visit to Saudi Arabia at the time, immediately cut short his trip and rushed back to India. At the airport itself, he held emergency meetings with top officials and made one thing clear: this attack would not go unanswered.

Operation Sindoor: A Bold and Swift Strike

On May 7, 2025, India launched **Operation Sindoor**, a powerful military response to the Pahalgam terror attack. In a lightning-fast early morning operation, Indian forces conducted precise missile strikes on **nine terror camps** located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). These camps belonged to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Key highlights of the operation:

- **Rafale fighter jets** armed with SCALP missiles and indigenous **BrahMos cruise missiles** were used.
- **Over 100 terrorists were eliminated.**
- Important Pakistani air bases in **Murid, Rafiqi, Sargodha, Rawalpindi**, and others were heavily damaged.
- Pakistan's HQ-9 air defence system in Lahore was destroyed.



Indian air defence systems, including **S-400**, successfully shot down Pakistani drones attempting to attack Indian cities like **Amritsar, Jammu, and Srinagar**.

What made Operation Sindoor stand out was the precision of the strikes. Terrorist hideouts were destroyed without

harming civilians – a strong message to the world that India fights terror, not people.

India on the Global Stage

The world took notice of Operation Sindoor. While countries like the United States tried to mediate, India clearly stated that it would not allow third-party interference and would continue its actions if provoked again.

Interestingly, there was **no major international backlash**. Global opinion largely saw India's actions as **measured and justified**—a rightful act of self-defence against terrorism.

Uniting the Nation and the World

To ensure the world understood the purpose and precision of Operation Sindoor, the Indian Government sent delegations to several countries. What was remarkable is that these delegations were led not just by ruling party members but **by opposition leaders too**. This rare show of unity sent a strong signal that when it comes to national security, India stands together.

Irresponsible Statements Their Impact

While the country united, some voices created confusion. One of the senior leaders of the opposition party criticised the government and even suggested that India had informed Pakistan in advance about the operation. He

questioned India's foreign policy and raised doubts about aircraft losses during the mission.

Unfortunately, **Pakistan picked up his comments** and used them in its propaganda against India. The Indian government swiftly responded, clarifying that Pakistan was only warned during the initial phase of the operation as per war convention, not before. The Ministry of External Affairs and the Air Force released clear statements and videos showing the success of the mission and dismissed the allegations.

The Serious Blow to Pakistan

Operation Sindoor delivered a serious setback to Pakistan:

- **Heavy financial losses** are estimated to be in the billions.
- Reports suggest that **four F-16 aircraft** were shot down.
- Pakistan's **AWACS surveillance aircraft** was destroyed at the Bholari Air Base.
- Several major airbases were rendered non-functional.
- Their attempt to launch drone strikes in India was completely foiled.
- Even Pakistan's former Air Marshal Masood Akhtar admitted the loss of critical defence infrastructure.

Nation Stands United

Despite some political bickering, **every major political party** supported Operation Sindoor. Regardless of religion, region, or ideology, people across India stood behind our armed forces and the government.

PM Modi made it clear: **any future terror attack from across the border will be treated as an act of war**. And the world knows now—India won't hesitate to defend itself.

The Road Ahead

Operation Sindoor also highlighted India's growing self-reliance in defence:

- Indigenous weapons like **BrahMos missiles** and **Akashteer Missile System (Air Defence System)** performed with great precision.
- India is now developing its own air defence system called **Project Kusha**, led by **Bharat Electronics**, which is expected to be an alternative to the Russian S-400.

India has proved the high quality of our technology-driven missiles and defence systems. Now, many countries, including Israel, want to buy our Indian defence products.

Role of Citizens in the Fight Against Terror

Operation Sindoor was not just a military campaign. It was a national effort — a show of strength, resilience, and unity.

But the fight against terrorism isn't over yet. Every Indian must:

- Stand united against hate and misinformation.
- Question false narratives, especially when used by hostile forces.
- Trust the strength and professionalism of our armed forces.
- Don't get carried away by misinformation.

Conclusion

Operation Sindoor is a proud chapter in India's fight against terrorism. It showed the world that India has the strength, precision, and the willpower to protect its people. The government acted decisively, the forces executed flawlessly, and the people stood together.

Let us continue to support our armed forces, demand accountability from those who spread misinformation, and never forget the cost of freedom and peace.

Jai Hind.

The Forgotten Crusader: Reviving Rajaji's Mission for World Peace in Our Hour of Greatest Need

(Published in the June 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Mg. Editor)

(Rajaji's forgotten peace mission offers timeless wisdom — a moral blueprint India must revive today to steer the world from conflict.)

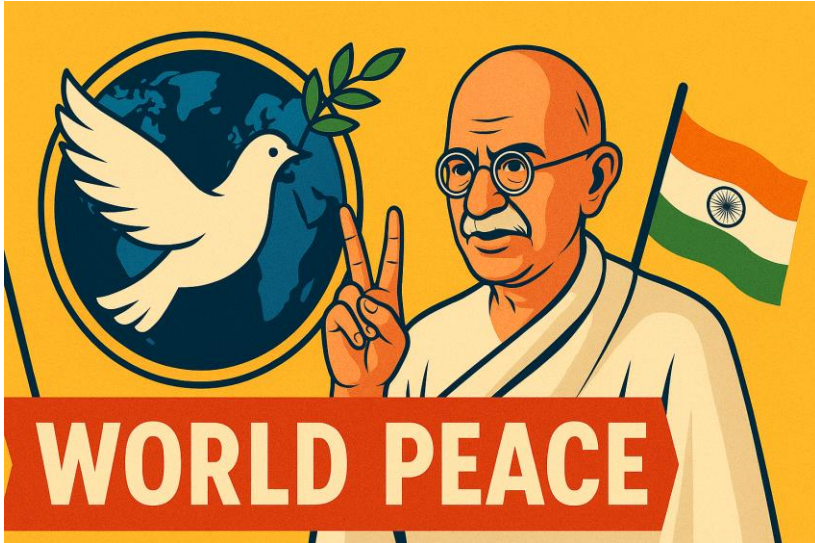
"Even so limited a beginning cannot help but carry forward the cause of peace for which you so devoutly laboured." - President John F. Kennedy to C. Rajagopalachari, 1962

When War Clouds Gather: The World's Present Agony

The world today bleeds from a thousand wounds. As we write, the thunder of artillery echoes across Ukrainian plains, where a conflict now in its fourth year has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions more. The fragile ceasefire is held by a thread, whilst Western nations pour arms into the theatre, escalating tensions with Russia to dangerous heights.

In the Middle East, the ancient lands of Palestine and Israel remain scarred by cycles of violence. The brutal Hamas

attacks that claimed innocent Israeli lives triggered devastating retaliations that have left Gaza in ruins. Meanwhile, the shadow war between Iran and Israel threatens to engulf the entire region, with strikes on nuclear facilities raising the spectre of catastrophic escalation.



Even our subcontinent bears fresh scars. When Pakistani-based terrorists brutally murdered innocent Hindu pilgrims at Pahalgam, India was compelled to respond with surgical strikes across the border. Though restraint prevailed and escalation was avoided, the incident reminds us how quickly regional tensions can ignite.

These conflicts exact a terrible toll not merely on the warring nations but on the entire global community. Economic

disruption, refugee crises, food insecurity, and the diversion of precious resources from development to destruction — war's tentacles strangle progress worldwide. Children go hungry whilst nations spend billions on instruments of death. Hospitals lack medicines whilst armies stockpile ammunition.

The Forgotten Statesman: Rajaji's Prophetic Mission of 1962

Yet there was a time when India's voice rang out with moral authority across the world's corridors of power, championing peace with such eloquence that even superpowers paused to listen. That voice belonged to Chakravarti Rajagopalachari—Rajaji—whose extraordinary peace mission of 1962 remains one of the most remarkable yet forgotten chapters in our diplomatic history.

The Nuclear Nightmare Begins

As the Cold War reached its terrifying zenith in the early 1960s, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics engaged in a deadly dance of nuclear brinkmanship. Above-ground nuclear tests were poisoning the atmosphere with radioactive fallout, whilst the arms race spiralled towards mutually assured destruction. The Cuban Missile Crisis had brought the world to the very brink of nuclear war, and humanity lived under the shadow of atomic annihilation.

It was in this climate of fear that Rajaji, then 84 years old, embarked on what would become one of the most successful peace missions in modern history. Under the aegis of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, this frail yet formidable statesman set out to confront the nuclear madness consuming the world.



President Kennedy (3rd from left) and Rajaji (4th from left) -Sep 1962

When Wisdom Met Power: Rajaji and Kennedy

On a crisp autumn day in 1962, the former Governor-General of India walked into the Oval Office to meet President John F. Kennedy. What was scheduled as a brief 25-minute courtesy call stretched into an hour-long dialogue that would help change the course of history.

Rajaji's presentation was masterful. With the moral authority of one who had fought alongside Gandhi for freedom and justice, he laid bare the nuclear threat in language that cut through diplomatic niceties. "These tests," he declared with characteristic forthrightness, "amount to a wholly illegitimate attack on the health of present and future generations of uninvolved millions, who have not written off their rights in favour of nuclear pugilists."

Kennedy, initially sceptical, found himself captivated by Rajaji's eloquence and the sheer force of his moral argument. The President later remarked that he was "awestruck" by the Indian statesman's presentation. Here was a man who could speak truth to power because he sought nothing for himself — only peace for humanity.

The Papal Intervention

Rajaji's mission extended beyond political capitals. In an inspired move, he sought an audience with Pope John XXIII, pleading with the Holy Father to lend the Church's moral voice to the cause of nuclear disarmament. The Pope, moved by Rajaji's passionate advocacy, issued a historic papal plea against nuclear testing—an intervention that reverberated across the Christian world.

Victory from the Jaws of Annihilation

The results were extraordinary. In 1963, just months after Rajaji's mission, the Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed by

the USA, USSR, and the United Kingdom, ending atmospheric nuclear testing. President Kennedy himself acknowledged Rajaji's crucial role in this breakthrough, writing to the Indian leader: "Even so limited a beginning cannot help but carry forward the cause of peace for which you so devoutly laboured."

Through the pages of his magazine *Swarajya*, Rajaji had long campaigned against the nuclear menace, comparing the atomic powers' deception about radioactive dangers to tobacco companies misleading the public about smoking's health risks. His vision was breathtakingly bold: he proposed that all nuclear nations should dump their atomic weapons deep in the Antarctic, neutralising the threat of nuclear war forever.

Tragically, political considerations prevented the Indian government from sending Rajaji to the Geneva Disarmament Conference, despite President Kennedy's personal desire to see him there. One can only imagine how his moral voice might have shaped those crucial negotiations.

The Unfinished Symphony: Modi's Moment to Revive Rajaji's Legacy

Today, as the world once again teeters on the edge of catastrophic conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands uniquely positioned to revive Rajaji's abandoned peace mission. Modi, whom admirers call *Vishwa Guru* (World

Teacher), possesses something rare in today's fractured world: the trust and respect of leaders across all major powers.

India's Moral Authority Restored

When Modi speaks of peace, he does so from the land that gave the world Gautama Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi. "When India talks about peace," he has said, "the whole world listens." This is not mere rhetoric — it reflects India's unique position as a nation that has never been an aggressor, that practices strategic autonomy whilst maintaining friendship with all.

Consider India's restraint even in provocation: when forced to respond to Pakistani terrorism, India struck only military targets and immediately de-escalated. This measured approach has earned India credibility as a responsible power committed to peace.

The Diplomatic Opening

Modi's relationships span the global spectrum. He maintains warm ties with both Putin and Zelensky, with Biden and Xi Jinping, with leaders across the Middle East and Europe. This diplomatic capital, built through years of patient engagement, creates unprecedented opportunities for peace mediation.

Like Rajaji six decades ago, Modi understands that true leadership means speaking uncomfortable truths to

powerful friends. He has already begun this process, telling Putin directly that "this is not an era of war" and offering India's services as a mediator.

The Rajaji Doctrine for Modern Times

Modi must now expand this approach, creating a new "Rajaji Doctrine" for 21st-century peace-making:

First, establish a permanent Indian Peace Mission, drawing on our rich tradition of conflict resolution and our position as the world's largest democracy.

Second, leverage India's growing economic and technological prowess to offer positive incentives for peace, not merely sanctions for war.

Third, revive the moral dimension of diplomacy that Rajaji exemplified — speaking not just as representatives of national interests, but as guardians of human civilisation.

Fourth, use India's soft cultural power and spiritual traditions to remind the world that lasting peace must be built on foundations deeper than mere political agreements.

The Eternal Song of Peace: India's Spiritual Message to the World

As we call for renewed peace efforts, we must remember that India's advocacy for global harmony flows from our deepest spiritual wellsprings. Our ancient scriptures don't merely recommend peace — they declare it the fundamental condition for human flourishing.

The Sanskrit Wisdom of Ages

Every Hindu ritual concludes with the sacred invocation: "*Om Shanti Shanti Shanti*"—may peace prevail in all three realms of existence. This is not mere liturgy but a profound recognition that peace must encompass the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions of human experience.

The *Atharva Veda* declares: "*Aa no bhadrah kratavo yantu vishwatah*"—let noble thoughts come to us from all directions. This ancient verse envisions a world where wisdom flows freely across borders, where humanity learns from its collective heritage rather than destroying it through conflict.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World as Family

Perhaps no concept better captures India's vision for global peace than "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*"—the world is one family. This isn't naive idealism but a practical philosophy recognising that in our interconnected age, the suffering of any nation becomes the burden of all.

The Tamil classic *Purananuru* echoes this sentiment: "*Yaadhum oore yaavarum kelir*"—every place is our home, and every person our kin. These aren't just beautiful words but a blueprint for the kind of consciousness required to build lasting peace.

The Price of War, the Dividend of Peace

Our scriptures understood what modern economics confirms: war consumes the seed corn of civilisation. Resources spent on weapons are resources stolen from schools, hospitals, and infrastructure. Children killed in conflicts are future scientists, artists, and leaders who are lost forever.

When nations choose peace over conflict, they unlock their peoples' creative potential. South Korea's transformation from war-torn poverty to technological prosperity, Japan's post-war economic miracle, Europe's integration after centuries of warfare; all demonstrate peace's dividends.

The Sacred Duty of Our Generation

Today's leaders face a choice as stark as any in human history. Will they follow the path of Rajaji — the way of moral courage, patient diplomacy, and unwavering commitment to peace? Or will they stumble towards a confrontation that could end human civilisation itself?

The answer lies not just in the hands of prime ministers and presidents, but in the hearts of ordinary citizens who must demand that their leaders choose wisdom over folly, dialogue over destruction, hope over hatred.

Rajaji's mission succeeded because it spoke to something deeper than national interest — it appealed to our common humanity. In reviving his legacy, we honour not just a

forgotten statesman but the eternal human aspiration for peace.

The world needs India's voice now more than ever. Not as another great power pursuing narrow interests, but as the inheritor of Rajaji's moral vision — a nation that dares to dream of beating swords into ploughshares, of transforming the world from a battlefield into a sanctuary of human flourishing.

In the words of our ancient prayer: "*Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramayah*"—may all beings be happy, may all beings be free from suffering. This is not just India's prayer but humanity's deepest longing.

The time has come to make it a reality.

PreSense appeals to Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi to establish a new Peace Mission in honour of Rajaji's legacy, and urges all nations to choose the path of dialogue over destruction. As Rajaji proved in 1962, sometimes the voice of one righteous nation can awaken the conscience of the world.

A Call for Zero Disruption: Anguish of a Common Man

(Published in the July 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)

(Parliamentary disruptions prioritise political theatrics over public welfare, silencing the common man's voice and hindering diligent MPs. A "Zero Disruption" approach is essential for democratic accountability.)



Disruption Denies the Common Man's Right to Be Heard

In the hallowed halls of India's Parliament, where the voices of millions of citizens should be amplified and represented, there is a growing crisis that threatens the very foundation of our democracy: **disruption**. A practice that has, unfortunately, become a regular feature of parliamentary proceedings, depriving the common man of their right to be heard and denying hardworking Parliamentarians the chance to fulfil their duty. This behaviour, primarily driven by the self-interest of a few, is a direct blow to the democratic process. It not only undermines the very essence of our system of governance, but it also strips away the dignity of the people we have sworn to serve.

During the 15th Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards ceremony, we have been vocal in our call for a **Zero Disruption** in the 18th Lok Sabha. Our words resonate deeply with the aspirations of the people, reminding everyone that Parliament is not a stage for political theatrics, but a forum where the welfare of the nation. The issues of the common man should take centre stage there. Our assertion that "**Question Hour belongs to the common man**" captures the crux of the matter. For the ordinary citizen, this is their only avenue to directly question the government through their MPs, raise issues that affect their daily lives, and hold their elected representatives accountable. However, when disruptions occur, this essential mechanism is rendered meaningless.

Disruption Hinders the Performance of MPs and Paralyzes Parliament

The repercussions of such disruption extend far beyond the immediate chaos in the House. As Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, aptly pointed out, **when Parliament is disrupted, it is not just the ruling party that loses**, but also the Opposition. The most significant damage is borne by those who work diligently to raise pertinent questions, participate in debates, and push for meaningful change. For these Parliamentarians, the disruptions deny them the **opportunity to perform**—to fulfil their duty towards the people who entrusted them with the responsibility of representing their interests.

Parliamentarians who work tirelessly to contribute to the nation's development are often silenced in these turbulent times. Despite their best efforts, the *momentum* of their contributions is lost when the House proceedings are cut short by constant disruptions. These dedicated individuals—who, by the way, are the **true performers**—find themselves at a disadvantage. Their work goes unrecognised, and their potential to receive accolades like the **Sansad Ratna** is hindered. But who are we really doing this for? The few who use Parliament as a playground for their petty interests, or the countless citizens whose voices deserve to be heard?

The Need for Unity and Responsibility to Honour the People's Mandate

This practice, rooted in self-interest and often fuelled by personal or political agendas, harms the very fabric of our democracy. Disruptions often stem from leaders more focused on furthering their own causes than addressing the nation's concerns. But what about the 1.3 billion people for whom Parliament exists? These are the men and women who, with their blood, sweat, and tears, keep the wheels of the country turning. They send their representatives to the House with one simple expectation: **To ensure that their concerns are addressed, their problems are solved, and their voices are heard.**

Every time the proceedings are halted, an invaluable opportunity to discuss, debate, and find solutions is lost. This is an abuse of power, an affront to the democratic process, and a slap in the face to the very people whom Parliament is supposed to serve. These interruptions do not solve anything; they only create **more barriers** between the people and their elected officials.

A Call for Zero Disruption and a Restored Focus on Public Service

Zero Disruption is not just a request—it is an urgent demand from the people of India. The **common man** wants Parliament to function. He wants his issues discussed; he wants his leaders to deliberate, debate, and most

importantly, **deliver solutions**. They don't want their representatives to be caught up in petty squabbles, wasting time on disruptions that go nowhere. Every session that is adjourned due to such disruptions is a lost opportunity for progress, a lost chance to improve the lives of millions.

It is time for all Parliamentarians to rise above self-interest and **take responsibility for the collective well-being of the nation**. As leaders, they should set aside their differences and work towards making Parliament a space where constructive dialogue thrives. We must put an end to the cycle of disruption and create an environment where every voice is heard, and every issue garners the attention it deserves. The performance of our Parliamentarians should be measured not by the number of times they disrupt proceedings, but by their **commitment to work for the people**—through action, not obstruction.

Our call for a **Zero Disruption 18th Lok Sabha** must not fall on deaf ears. Parliamentarians must come together to honour their duty to the people and the nation, and to restore the dignity of our Parliament. Disruption may seem like a momentary expression of discontent, but its long-term consequences are far-reaching. It undermines the faith of the people in our democratic system, robs Parliamentarians of their chance to make a real difference, and ultimately harms the very people we are here to serve.

Let Parliamentarians heed the call for **Zero Disruption** and work together to ensure that the voice of the people is heard loud and clear in the heart of our democracy. It is time to put aside their differences and work towards a Parliament that truly represents the will of the people. For when Parliament works, the nation works. Let us make it so.

Democracy Under Siege: When Constitutional Methods Give Way to the Grammar of Anarchy

(Published in the July 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)

(Parliament dysfunction wastes taxpayer money, abandons constitutional methods for "Grammar of Anarchy," threatening India's democratic foundations through systematic institutional vandalism.)

Dr Ambedkar's Warning

Dr B.R. Ambedkar knew exactly what he was doing when he addressed the Constituent Assembly on 25th November 1949. The chief architect of our Constitution wasn't merely delivering a speech—he was issuing a prophetic warning to future generations. His words ring with uncomfortable relevance today: "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also in fact, what must we do? The first thing we must do, in my judgement, is to hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives... where constitutional methods are open, there can be no justification for these unconstitutional methods. These methods are nothing but the Grammar of

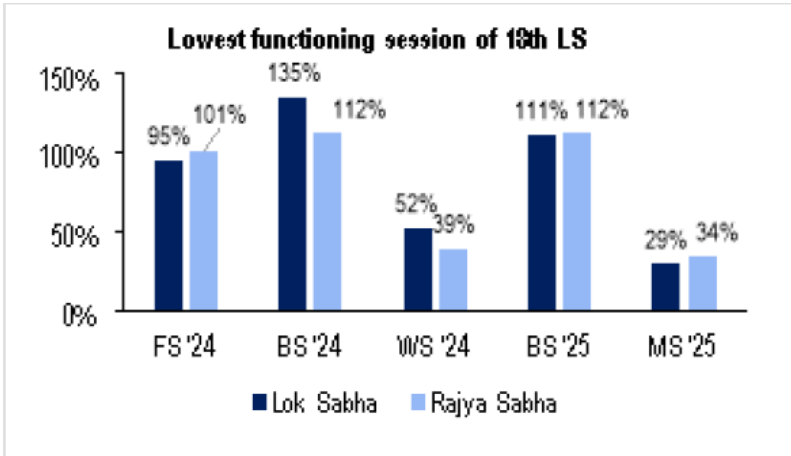
Anarchy, and the sooner they are abandoned, the better for us."

Today, as we witness the systematic dismantling of parliamentary decorum, we must ask ourselves: have we forgotten the very foundation upon which our democracy stands?

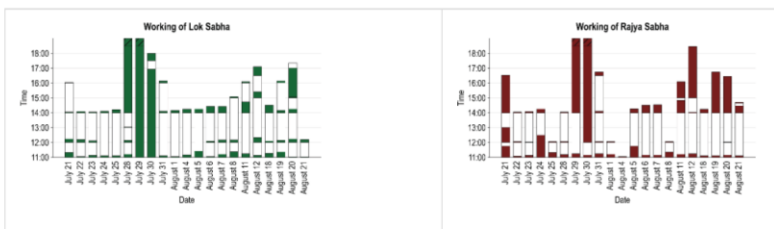
The Sacred Temple Defiled

Parliament isn't just another building in New Delhi—it is the sacred temple of our democracy, where the voices of 1.4 billion Indians converge. Yet what transpired during the recent Monsoon Session was nothing short of a desecration of this hallowed institution. For 21 agonising days, the nation watched helplessly as Parliament was rendered dysfunctional—not by external enemies, but by a calculated campaign of disruption from within its own walls.

Lok Sabha functioned for 29% of the scheduled time, Rajya Sabha 34%



The statistics tell a story that should shame every Indian. Two-thirds of Parliament's precious time was squandered. Crores of taxpayers' money—funds that could have built schools, hospitals, or roads—were frittered away, on a daily basis, as the House remained paralysed. This wasn't mere political posturing; it was a direct assault on the democratic process itself.



Note: The shaded areas represent functioning hours of the House, and white areas indicate House was adjourned during the period.

The Anatomy of Democratic Sabotage

The numbers are as stark as they are shameful. The Lok Sabha functioned for a mere 23% of its Question Hour—the very mechanism through which people's representatives hold the government accountable. The Rajya Sabha's performance was even more appalling, managing only 6% functionality during Question Hour. To put this in perspective: for every 100 minutes allocated for questions that matter to ordinary Indians, 94 minutes were stolen in the Upper House.

This systematic sabotage extended to legislative business as well. Of 13 bills introduced, only 5 were sent to Committees for scrutiny. The remaining 8 were hurried through amidst chaos and cacophony—a mockery of the deliberative process that forms the bedrock of democratic governance. This isn't opposition; it's abdication of responsibility. The Opposition parties did not even participate in important discussions.

A Pattern of Irresponsible Leadership

The current Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi's, approach reveals a deeply troubling pattern. Rather than engaging in substantive debate, there appears to be a preference for creating media spectacles over meaningful discourse. The track record speaks for itself: unfounded allegations around Pegasus, baseless claims about the Rafale deal, and unsubstantiated attacks on the Adani group. Each of these controversies was eventually exposed as hollow, but not before precious parliamentary time was sacrificed on the altar of sensationalism.

This irresponsible conduct extends far beyond Parliament's chambers. The courts have repeatedly been forced to intervene, with the Supreme Court itself recently reprimanding such reckless statements. When the highest judicial authority in the land feels compelled to issue warnings, it's time for serious introspection. Yet the pattern continues unabated, suggesting that judicial rebukes are falling on deaf ears.

Crossing All Lines of Decency

Perhaps the most disturbing manifestation of this casual, non-serious approach occurred recently in Bihar, where a party leader made vulgar and derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Modi's deceased mother, a centenarian, who had lived a century and had absolutely no connection

to politics. This wasn't political criticism; it was a descent into the gutter of public discourse.

What makes this incident particularly shameful is the deafening silence that followed. Instead of swift condemnation and an immediate apology, there was tacit approval through inaction. When political discourse stoops to attacking the deceased mothers of opponents, we have crossed a line that should never be crossed in a civilised democracy. The failure to unequivocally condemn such statements speaks volumes about the kind of political culture being fostered.

The Cost of Constitutional Vandalism

The latest pretext for parliamentary disruption centres around the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls—a routine administrative process conducted by the Election Commission under the Supreme Court's oversight. Yet this mundane procedural matter has been weaponised to justify constitutional vandalism. Such campaigns don't just waste parliamentary time, they systematically undermine public faith in our democratic institutions.

When opposition leaders make statements that are subsequently quoted by hostile neighbours like Pakistan to malign India, we must question whether this is responsible opposition or something far more damaging. Political opposition is not only legitimate but essential for

democracy—but it must never come at the cost of national dignity or institutional credibility.

The Elders' Silence

Within the opposition benches sit parliamentarians of immense wisdom and experience—leaders who have served the nation with distinction across decades. Their knowledge represents a national treasure, their insights invaluable to our democratic discourse. Yet their silence in the face of such systematic disruption is deeply troubling. These senior leaders have a moral obligation to counsel their colleagues away from the path of anarchy and back towards constitutional methods. Their continued silence makes them complicit in this democratic vandalism. Rahul Gandhi should take into confidence and discuss with the well-experienced senior leaders in the opposition bloc before deciding the Parliament strategies.

The Government's Responsibility

Whilst the primary responsibility for this crisis lies with those who choose disruption over dialogue, the Government too bears responsibility for fostering a constructive environment. Regular consultation with opposition leaders, genuine efforts to find common ground, and a commitment to allowing meaningful debate within parliamentary rules are essential for a healthy democracy. Both sides must work to ensure that Parliament functions as the founders envisioned.

A Call to Conscience

This editorial is an appeal to the conscience of every Member of Parliament, regardless of party affiliation. The eyes of India are upon you—not just the India of today, but future generations who will judge how we stewarded their democracy. Our young people are watching and learning from your conduct. What lessons are you teaching them? That the path to progress lies through constitutional methods and respectful debate, or through chaos and institutional vandalism?

Dr Ambedkar's warning about the "Grammar of Anarchy" was not an academic theory—it was a practical roadmap for preserving democracy. When we abandon constitutional methods despite their availability, we don't just harm Parliament; we wound the very soul of our nation.

The time has come to choose: Will we be remembered as the generation that preserved and strengthened our democracy, or as the one that allowed it to descend into anarchy? The Constitution you hold aloft for cameras demands more than theatrical gestures—it demands adherence to its spirit and letter.

Parliament must be restored to its rightful role as the temple of democracy. Our nation deserves nothing less.

Data and graphics courtesy: PRS Legislative Research

Ladakh's Warning: Secure India from Regional Upheavals

(Published in the September 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Managing Editor)

(Ladakh's unrest, mirroring youth-led upheavals in neighbouring nations, highlights India's vulnerability. Unresolved grievances risk exploitation by anti-national elements. Robust governance and vigilance are crucial for national security.)

The recent violence in Ladakh is a stark reminder that unresolved local grievances can become a gateway for instability. India must learn from its neighbours and act decisively to protect its democratic fabric from both internal and external threats.

The cold desert of Ladakh, known for its serene monasteries and breathtaking landscapes, recently witnessed the heat of unrest. A protest movement, simmering for years, boiled over into tragic violence on September 24-25, 2025. What began as a peaceful agitation led by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards under

the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh culminated in violent clashes that left four people dead, dozens injured, and the local



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office in ashes.

The demands of the Ladakhi people—rooted in anxieties over cultural identity, land rights, unemployment, and political representation since the region became a Union Territory in 2019—are genuine and deserve deliberation. The government has rightly engaged in dialogue by forming a High-Powered Committee to address these concerns. However, the slow pace of negotiations created a vacuum filled with frustration. It is in this volatile environment that the protests escalated, with agitators reportedly inspired by similar youth-led uprisings that have recently convulsed our neighbourhood.

This is not an isolated incident. A dangerous pattern is emerging across South Asia, where a surge of Gen Z–

driven protests has toppled multiple governments. In Nepal, the government's ban on popular social media platforms in September 2025 acted as a trigger for massive demonstrations. These were further fuelled by deeper anger over 20% youth unemployment and systemic corruption, ultimately forcing Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli to resign. Similarly, in Bangladesh, student protests over job quota reforms in 2024 morphed into a widespread anti-corruption movement that ended the long tenure of Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India. And who can forget Sri Lanka's 2022 'Aragalaya' movement, where an economic crisis drove masses to storm the presidential palace, causing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee and resign?

In each of these instances, while the sparks were local, the fire was fanned by a common set of accelerants: economic insecurity, endemic corruption, and the rapid, decentralised



Sonam Wangchuk

mobilisation capabilities of social media. This alarming trend raises a critical question: are these upheavals purely organic, or are they being engineered?

Across South Asian media and political circles, concerns about foreign instigation are being hotly debated. In Bangladesh, the outgoing Awami League pointedly raised claims of American “political interference”. While credible analyses suggest these movements stem primarily from legitimate domestic grievances, we cannot afford to be naive. Geo-strategic interests are at play, with both the United States and China vying for influence in the region. It is plausible that foreign non-governmental organisations and soft power campaigns amplify social media narratives or fund civic tech platforms that build protest capacity, thereby turning local discontent into national crises. It is also suspected that anti-national forces, often referred to as the ‘Deep State,’ are exploiting local issues to destabilise nations that do not align with their globalist agenda. These forces do not want a strong and stable India.

This brings us back to Ladakh. The agitation saw the youth wing’s shutdown calls paralysing public life, a tactic eerily similar to those seen abroad. The BJP has accused the Congress party of orchestrating the unrest, framing it as a politically motivated “Gen Z revolution”. Some officials have even suggested a deliberate attempt to replicate the protest models from Nepal and Bangladesh on Indian soil. While local activists deny significant political manipulation or

foreign involvement, there is credible evidence of foreign funding to the NGO led by Sonam Wangchuk, who has been arrested by the CBI. The very circulation of these allegations should put our nation on high alert.

The Government of India faces a two-fold challenge that requires immediate and resolute action. First, it must be vigilant against anti-national elements operating under any guise, including as political workers. Inflammatory speeches and the cynical leveraging of public anger for electoral gains must be curbed with an iron hand. Our intelligence and security agencies must be empowered to identify and neutralise any foreign or domestic actors seeking to destabilise our nation by adding fuel to the fire of local disputes.

Second, and just as critically, the government must drain the swamp of grievances in which these anti-national elements thrive. The most potent defence against foreign interference is robust, responsive, and transparent governance. The events in Ladakh are a lesson in the risks of delayed negotiation. When peaceful demands are met with prolonged silence, it creates conditions ripe for escalation. We must proactively address regional problems, from unemployment in our urban centres to constitutional anxieties in our border regions. Strengthening institutional accountability, expanding opportunities for our youth, and ensuring inclusive dialogue are not just policy goals; they are national security imperatives.

The future of India's stability rests on this dual approach. As a nation, we must be united. As citizens, we must be cautious and discerning, wary of narratives designed to divide and destroy. India's large youth demographic and increasing digital penetration are great strengths, but they can also be vulnerabilities if left to be exploited. By addressing our internal challenges with sincerity and guarding our unity with vigilance, we can ensure that the political earthquakes shaking our neighbours do not find an epicentre within our borders.

Real or Fake? India's New Fight for the Truth on the Internet

(Published in the October 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)

(India's new IT Rules amendments mandate clear labelling of AI-generated content to combat deepfakes, requiring platforms and creators to identify synthetic media and protecting citizens from misinformation.)

The internet used to be a great place for everyone to gain knowledge and share ideas freely. But now, it is facing a massive problem: it is getting hard to tell the difference between what's real and what's fake. The recent media reports reveal the fake social media videos in the Bihar Elections. Election Commission has issued a warning to the creators of such deepfake content. This is a great risk that innocent citizens are facing now.

The Government of India has now suggested important changes to the **IT Rules, 2021**, specifically to deal with **synthetically generated information**—content made by Artificial Intelligence (AI). These changes are not just small technical updates; they are a necessary and urgent step to protect every citizen from a global digital threat.

The Deepfake Danger: A Crisis That Has Reached India

AI tools have made it incredibly easy to create "deepfakes"—fake videos, audios, and images that look and sound completely real. What once took a Hollywood studio months to do can now be done instantly on a basic computer.



Around the world, deepfakes are being used for terrible things. They are used to create fake private images, spread political lies, and even trick companies out of large sums of money. In India, there are reports about communal tensions based on these fake videos. The fraud is getting so advanced that criminals can use AI to fake a person's face or voice to pass security checks, a process known as **biometric spoofing**.

In India, this threat is very real. We saw how quickly deepfake videos of famous actors and politicians went viral, creating confusion and damage to their reputations. These fake contents, including videos and audios, are designed to cause social friction, influence elections, and make people doubt real news. The sheer volume of this fake content is growing rapidly.

Why We Must Act Now

Because AI-generated fake content is so fast and so realistic, we urgently need a proper system to keep track of it. Our old methods of content checking—relying on people or simple software filters—are simply not good enough anymore. It is almost impossible for a normal person to spot a high-quality deepfake.

The platforms that host and create this content hold the real power. They must now take on a major and fair share of the responsibility. AI isn't just a simple tool; it's a powerful force that can cause both good and bad. If we allow these platforms to act without rules, simply claiming they are neutral delivery services, we invite disorder and fail in the basic duty of protecting our citizens.

How India Tried to Fight Fake Content Before

India has always had laws to deal with online harm, but they were not designed for the AI age. Before the IT Rules, 2021, we mainly relied on parts of the **IT Act, 2000**, and the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**. These laws covered crimes like online cheating or spreading indecent material, but they mostly dealt with the *result* of the crime, not the technology *behind* it.

Older rules, like the **IT (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011**, told platforms to warn users about prohibited content but lacked the power to handle clever AI tricks. The later amendments to the 2021 Rules helped by making platforms act quickly to remove illegal content. However, they still lacked clear rules for the specific threat of synthetic content. These new draft rules are intended to close that critical gap.

New Rules, Clear Responsibilities

The current amendments create a very clear system of shared responsibility. The new legal definition of '**synthetically generated information**' ensures that content that looks real but is AI-made is treated specially.

What Generative Platforms Must Do (Rule 3(3)):

Any company that provides tools to create or change synthetic content must embed a permanent and unique digital marker (metadata) on that content. This marker must be clearly visible, covering at least 10% of the screen area of a video or during the first 10% of an audio clip. This ensures that the fake nature is easy to see and cannot be removed later.

What Big Social Media Platforms (SSMIs) Must Do (Rule 4(1A)):

Platforms with a large number of users must follow even stricter rules:

1. **Ask the User:** They must ask the user to confirm if the content they are uploading is AI-generated.
2. **Check the Claim:** They must use "reasonable technical measures" (including automated software) to check if the user is telling the truth.
3. **Put a Clear Label:** If the content is confirmed as synthetic, the platform must put a clear and prominent label on it.

If these platforms fail to follow these rules, they risk losing the legal protection they currently have. This means that following due diligence is mandatory—it is the essential requirement for doing business on the Indian internet. This two-part approach—labelling by the creators and verification by the hosts—is a model that matches the best new laws being created globally, such as in the EU and China.

Freedom with Responsibility

Some people often argue that strong rules go against the **Constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression** (Article 19(1)(a)). However, our Constitution makes it clear that this freedom is **not absolute**. It comes with reasonable limits for the sake of India's sovereignty, security, public order, and, most importantly, to prevent defamation and anti-national content.

Freedom of expression does not give anyone the right to create fake content, lie about someone, or insult them. Such actions are not free speech; they are digital attacks. If we allow bad actors to damage people's lives and reputations using powerful technology, we harm the genuine people who use the internet responsibly. **Accountable freedom**, where rights are balanced with duties, is the only way to keep the internet healthy and useful.

We Welcome the Change, But Enforcement is Key

PreSense fully supports this forward-thinking amendment. It sets a necessary and high standard for accountability in the age of AI.

However, a great law is useless if it is not used. We urge the Government to make sure this law is properly enforced. The system of accountability—the Grievance Officers and the Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs)—must be strong, well-funded, and able to act fast.

To help make this work better, we suggest two things:

1. **A Simple, Standard Label:** The Government should bring together tech experts to agree on a **single, clear, and simple digital icon or notice** that must be used across all platforms. If every platform uses the same label, people will quickly learn what the **10% visibility** label means, and they won't be confused by different warnings.
2. **Public Awareness Drive:** The rules can only work if users know about them. A large, public campaign must be started right away to teach the average Indian, in all major languages, how to spot the synthetic content label

and how to file a complaint if they find something malicious.

- Setting up Expert Committee:** The Indian Government should set up an expert committee of representatives from the Media and cybersecurity organisations and periodically review the implementation of various rules, through Zoom or any other Indian platform.
- A system must be evolved to monitor whether these rules are misused, and implemented only for the good of society. The latest amendment does not infringe upon the Fundamental Rights and privacy of people. It is not against Fundamental Rights, as argued by a few.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Intermediary Role Intermediaries
- Must make reasonable efforts prevent sharing of prohibited content
- Must label & identify synthetic content as per ped norms
- User Awareness Educate users on risks & verification

New Ru the new rule on Synthetic Information?

Platforms must ensure users don't share "synthetic generated" information used for wrong purposes.

To protect user rights & ensure online safety

Key Focus: Combating Deepfakes & Misinformation

IMPACT & CHANGES

- Accountability
- Empowered users with on platforms
- Promotes authentic online discourse
- Non-compliance may lead to legal action

This amendment is a brave and crucial step to ensure that India's digital future is one of truth and trust, not lies and confusion. We must ensure that the law stays ahead of the technology.

Here it is pertinent to remember what a US Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said decades ago: “Your Liberty to Swing Your Fist Ends Just Where My Nose Begins.” (in modern usage, it is changed as ‘Your Liberty ends where my nose begins’ – mostly attributed to Abraham Lincoln) which means Freedom of speech is essential but that freedom to act ends when it infringes on the rights, safety or personal domain of other persons. Those who argue for unfettered freedom of speech should do well to remember the quote.

The notification may be accessed from the website of Government of India:

<https://www.meity.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/38be31bac9d39bbe22f24fc42442d5d1.pdf>

The official press release

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2181719>

The Bihar Verdict: A Masterclass in Strategy and a Decimation of the Opposition

(Published in the November 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)

(NDA's landslide Bihar victory stemmed from flawless alliance, effective welfare for women and youth, and a strong development narrative, outmanoeuvring a fragmented opposition.)

The stunning and unprecedented landslide victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, securing **202 seats** in the 243-member House, marks a political earthquake with ramifications far beyond the State's borders. This verdict was not merely a win but a strategic decimation of the opposition Mahagathbandhan (MGB) and a powerful validation of a well-oiled political machine. For *PreSense*, this analysis offers critical lessons in electoral strategy, alliance management, and the evolving narrative of Indian democracy.

Election Results: 2025 vs. 2020 Snapshot

The sheer scale and efficiency of the NDA's victory become clear when comparing the final results with previous cycles.

Party/Alliance	Seats Won (2025)	Vote % (2025)	Seats Won (2020)	Vote % (2020)	Seats Contested (2025)	Winning Rate (2025)
NDA Total	202	46.7% (Approx.)	125	40.3%	243	83.1%
BJP	89	20.08%	74	19.46%	101	88.1%
JD(U)	85	19.25%	43	15.39%	101	84.1%
LJP(RV)	19	4.97%	0 (Split)	N/A	28	67.9%
MGB Total	35	38.0% (Approx.)	110	38.4%	243	14.4%
RJD	25	23.00%	75	23.11%	143	17.5%
INC	6	8.71%	19	9.48%	61	9.8%

Note: Data compiled from ECI statistics and post-poll analyses. NDA and MGB total vote percentages for 2025 are aggregate post-poll estimates, showing NDA at approximately 47% and MGB at approximately 38%. Individual party data is precise ECI data.

Anatomy of the NDA Sweep: Strategy and Organisation

The NDA's historic win was a victory of **organisation, narrative, and social engineering**. It was the result of the following decisive strategies:

1. Flawless Alliance Unity and Seat Efficiency

Unlike the MGB, the NDA presented a **flawless, unified front**. The seat-sharing agreement, which included key allies like JD(U), LJP (Ram Vilas Paswan), HAM(S), and RLM, was executed meticulously. This unity prevented internal feuds and, crucially, ensured near-perfect vote transfer, dramatically improving the winning rate. The high strike rate of the BJP (88.1%) and JD(U) (84.1%) is a testament to this strategic

efficiency. The RLM and LJP(RV), led by Upendra Kushwaha and Chirag Paswan, delivered significant returns by consolidating their respective sub-caste votes (Kurmi/Koeri and Paswan) under the NDA umbrella.

2. The Power of the Positive MY Formula (Mahila and Youth)

The NDA successfully reframed the traditional 'M-Y' (Muslim-Yadav) vote bank of the RJD into a '**Mahila and Youth**' formula. Targeted Central and State Government **welfare schemes**—such as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to women beneficiaries under the *Mukya Mantri Mahila Yojna* just before the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), as well as schemes for housing, LPG, and toilets—created a formidable 'silent' vote bank among women. The female turnout of **71.6%** was decisive and largely mobilised in favour of the incumbent alliance, neutering the anti-incumbency factor.

3. Development vs. 'Jungle Raj' Narrative

The NDA campaign skilfully contrasted its long-standing promise of '**Sushasan**' (good governance) and **development** (infrastructure, roads, electricity) with the haunting spectre of '**Jungle Raj**' (lawlessness and misgovernance) associated with past opposition rule. The people of Bihar, desiring only progress and stability, responded overwhelmingly to this positive, future-oriented narrative, making development the paramount concern over identity politics.

4. Strategic Caste Consolidation

The NDA effectively broadened its caste coalition, most notably securing a decisive swing in **Dalit** and **Extremely Backward Class (EBC)** votes. The alliance won a staggering **34 out of 38 reserved Scheduled Caste (SC) seats**. This was achieved through the inclusion of leaders like Jitan Ram Manjhi (HAMS) and Chirag Paswan (LJP(RV)), who ensured the consolidation of the Mahadalit and EBC groups, effectively piercing the MGB's traditional vote base.

The Opposition's Self-Inflicted Wounds

The Mahagathbandhan's (MGB) defeat was less a victory of the NDA and more a collapse of the opposition's strategy and coherence.

1. Disunity and Fragmentation

The MGB lacked **unity and organisational discipline**. They were unable to finalise seat-sharing arrangements smoothly, resulting in **'friendly fights'** in several constituencies. This fragmentation confused voters, diluted the opposition vote, and projected an image of an ill-prepared, unviable alternative. Furthermore, RJD's refusal to accommodate **Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM** led to the latter forming a third front, which secured 5 seats and acted as a significant 'spoiler', eating into the MGB's vote bank in Muslim-heavy seats.

2. The Wrong Narrative: Focusing on the Irrelevant

The MGB's pew-poll narrative, focusing exclusively on allegations of **'Vote Chori'** and the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, fell flat. While the SIR, which

deleted nearly 65 lakh names, did become a major political flashpoint, the Opposition lacked **concrete, verifiable evidence** of systematic manipulation. Critically, this hyper-focus overshadowed the **real issues** of development, job creation, and stability that voters truly cared about. By not taking up good, proactive problems and instead harping on an unsubstantiated conspiracy, the MGB allowed the narrative of 'Sushasan' to go unchallenged.

3. Prashant Kishor and the Failed Third Front

Political strategist-turned-activist **Prashant Kishor's (PK) Jan Suraj** party, despite an ambitious *padyatra* and focusing on genuine issues like unemployment and migration, failed to translate its social media buzz into electoral success, securing **zero seats**. In a State with deep caste loyalties and institutionalised parties, the Jan Suraj's highly educated, 'merit-based' candidates lacked the **local roots and established cadre** necessary to convert visibility into votes. Though a 'spoiler' in some seats, its main impact was to show that a third-force model, even one based on sound, non-caste issues, requires years of grassroots organisation, not just a strong media presence.

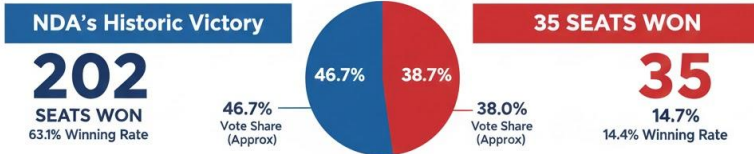
Why the Opinion Polls Went Wrong: The 'Silent' Voter

Almost all opinion polls and exit polls correctly predicted an NDA victory, but **massively underestimated its magnitude**. The 'poll of polls' average of approximately 148 seats was almost **60 seats** short of the final tally.

The key deviations were:

1. **The Silent Woman Voter Effect:** The poll models failed to capture the depth of consolidation among women voters, who silently backed the NDA in record numbers due to welfare scheme benefits. This demographic acted as a powerful counter-force to perceived anti-incumbency.
2. **Failure to Model Alliance Cohesion:** Pollsters underestimated the NDA's **strategic efficiency** in translating vote share into seats through impeccable alliance management, which contrasted sharply with the MGB's vote-diluting fragmentation.
3. **The SIR Factor:** Pollsters likely failed to correctly assess the demographic profile and impact of the nearly 65 lakh voter deletions under the **SIR exercise**. If these deletions disproportionately affected opposition-aligned groups (even if inadvertently), it would have skewed the sample models and artificially boosted the effective margin for the NDA.

THE BIHAR VERDICT 2025: A MASTERCLASS IN STRATEGY



STRATEGY & ORGANISATION: Why the NDA Swept	SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS: Why the MGB Collapsed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Flawless Alliance CohesionThe "Mahila & Youth" Decisive Female Turnout: 71.6%Development vs. "Jungle Raj" Good Governance and Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lack of Coherence & DisciplineIneffective, Backward-Looking NarrativeThe "Silent" Voter Effect Massively underestimated by nearly 60 seats

LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

- | FOR THE NDA (BLUE) | FOR THE OPPOSITION (RED) |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain flawless narrativeTargeted welfare | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Disciplined, coherent allianceForward-looking alternatives |

An organised, positive narrative backed o a cohesive alliance and effective welfare delivery is the formula for success in modern Indian politics.

JVC Sreeram, the poll analyst, was among the few who came close to sensing the magnitude, reportedly stating that if the NDA crossed 157, there would be no limit to its final tally, an observation that proved prescient to the NDA's subsequent sweep beyond initial expectations.

Conclusion: Lessons for the Future

The 2025 Bihar result provides essential reading for both political blocs in India:

- **For the NDA:** The lesson is to maintain **flawless alliance cohesion**, relentlessly pursue the **development/governance narrative**, and continue to build the 'silent' female vote bank through **targeted welfare**. Organisation triumphs over localised dissent.
- **For the Opposition (MGB):** The primary lesson is that **disunity is decisive defeat**. They must forge a **disciplined, coherent, and timely alliance**, and their narrative must pivot from backward-looking allegations ('Vote Chori', 'SIR') to **forward-looking, credible alternatives** focused on youth, jobs, and development. They must also work on the ground-up organisational structure needed to pierce the NDA's welfare coalition.

Bihar has reaffirmed that in modern Indian politics, an **organised, positive narrative** backed by a **cohesive alliance** and **effective welfare delivery** is a formula that can neutralise caste arithmetic and anti-incumbency, setting a strong precedent for upcoming State elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. The political landscape has truly been recalibrated.

The 'Grammar of Anarchy': Ambedkar's Warning and the Peril of the Impeachment Notice

(Published in the December 2025 edition of PreSense, authored by Prime Point Srinivasan, Managing Editor)

(The editorial argues that the INDIA bloc's impeachment notice against Justice Swaminathan weaponizes constitutional processes to punish judicial independence, risking democratic "anarchy" for electoral expediency.)



***Tiruparangundram Lord Subramanya (Muruga) temple
(Photo courtesy: Dinamalar)***

The Resurgence of an Ancient Warning

In his seminal speech to the Constituent Assembly on 25 November 1949, Dr B.R. Ambedkar issued a stern warning against the erosion of constitutional propriety: **"Where constitutional methods are open, there can be no justification for unconstitutional methods. These methods are nothing but the 'Grammar of Anarchy' and the sooner they are abandoned, the better for us."** This profound caution appears increasingly relevant in the wake of the escalating standoff between the Tamil Nadu executive and the judiciary. On 9 December 2025, in a move that has sent ripples through the legal fraternity, 107 MPs of the INDIA bloc submitted a formal impeachment notice to the Lok Sabha Speaker against Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madras High Court. This retaliatory strike followed a judgment permitting the lighting of the *Karthigai Deepam* on the ancient *Deepathoon* (stone pillar) on Thiruparankundram hill—an order that was ignored by the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government but subsequently upheld by a Division Bench of the High Court.



INDIA Bloc presenting Impeachment Notice to Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha

From Administrative Defiance to Constitutional Crisis

The administrative defiance observed in this case suggests a troubling shift from the 'Grammar of Law' to the 'Grammar of Anarchy'. Despite the Division Bench's affirmation and the Supreme Court's refusal to grant an immediate stay, the State Government chose to bypass implementation, citing potential communal unrest as a convenient shield. In an apparent haste to satisfy a minority vote bank, the ruling dispensation and the signatory MPs have bypassed established legal recourse in favour of a constitutional "nuclear option." By weaponising the impeachment process against a judge for a specific verdict—before the highest

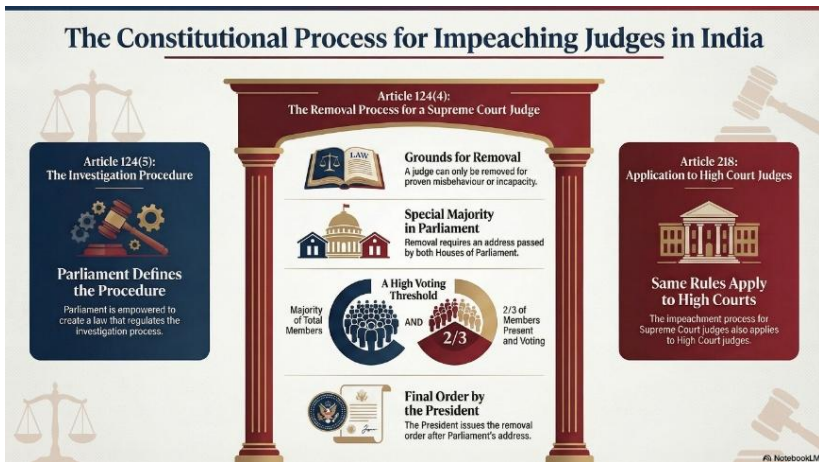
court in the land has even had its final say—the political establishment risks setting a perilous precedent, where judicial independence is sacrificed at the altar of electoral expediency.

The fallout on the ground, however, reveals a more disturbing trend. Although Justice Swaminathan's judgment was upheld by a superior Bench of two judges, the discourse from the ruling party's supporters has descended into personal vitriol, exclusively targeting Justice Swaminathan for his Brahmin identity. This narrow, caste-based defamation ignores the legal merits of an order that merely directed the lighting of a lamp on the sacred *Karthigai* day, once a year, on the *Deepathoon*.

Interestingly, the political attempt to project this as a "protection of minority rights" has backfired. In conversations with *PreSense*, many members of the Muslim community expressed disagreement with the impeachment, viewing it as an unnecessary escalation that risks their own social standing. Even within the DMK's own ranks, workers privately admit that the government has needlessly elevated a local ritual into a national controversy, inadvertently consolidating Hindu sentiment against the party.

This sense of alienation is further compounded by the perceived asymmetry in the State's cultural engagement. While the Chief Minister and senior leaders are

conspicuous by their absence in greeting Hindus on major festivals like Deepavali or Vinayaga Chaturthi, they are frequent participants in Iftar or Christmas gatherings—a discrepancy often punctuated by the ridicule of Hindu traditions. Furthermore, the silence of the opposition on the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh, contrasted with their outcry over stray incidents at home, has not gone unnoticed. The depth of this internal conflict was most tragically illustrated by a DMK worker Poorna Chandran (31) of Madurai, who committed self-immolation in protest against his own government's refusal to light the lamp. Silently but surely, these actions are causing significant



embarrassment to the Muslim community and creating a potent wave of consolidation among Hindu voters.

Constitutional Safeguards vs Political Retribution

Under **Articles 124(4) and 218** of the Constitution of India, the removal of a High Court judge is a rigorous process designed to protect judicial independence. A judge can only be impeached on the grounds of "proven misbehaviour" or "incapacity," typically involving grave allegations of proved corruption or mental infirmity. Historically, this "nuclear option" has been reserved for instances of moral turpitude.

However, the current motion appears to break new ground by targeting a judge primarily for a specific judicial pronouncement; a move that risks transforming a legal disagreement into a tool for political retribution. By initiating this process before exhausting the judicial hierarchy, the signatories have arguably ignored the spirit of the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, which was never intended to facilitate the vetting of verdicts through the lens of vote-bank politics.

Ideological Contradictions and Internal Friction

Strangely, the presence of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi during the submission of the notice has sent a controversial message across the nation, with critics viewing it as an endorsement of an anti-Hindu narrative. Within the Congress party itself, the move has triggered internal friction.

Several senior leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity to *PreSense*, expressed shock and suggested that the central leadership was "misled into a trap" by regional allies.

They pointed to the electoral drubbing the party faced in various States following their perceived support for the "Eradicate Sanatana Dharma" rhetoric, fearing that this latest stance could further alienate the majority community.

Equally baffling is the involvement of the Shiv Sena (UBT). A party whose very foundation rests on the promotion of *Hindu Dharma* has now, paradoxically, lent its signature to a motion against a judge whose order merely permitted the lighting of a lamp on a hill dedicated to Lord Muruga. This ideological pivot highlights the extent to which traditional values are being sacrificed at the altar of political survival. It suggests that for the sake of the INDIA bloc's cohesion, even parties claiming to champion Hindu interests are willing to penalise the judiciary for upholding a centuries-old religious tradition at Thiruparankundram.

A Legacy of Dedication: The Measure of the Man

The irony of the impeachment motion becomes even more stark when one examines the professional track record of Justice G.R. Swaminathan. Since his elevation to the Bench in 2017, he has achieved the extraordinary feat of disposing of approximately **1.20 lakh cases**, a testament to his staggering work ethic.

Speaking to *PreSense*, Dr S.K. Kharventhan, former Congress MP and former Chairman of the Bar Council of India, expressed profound admiration for the judge's



Justice G R Swaminathan

commitment. Recalling a recent encounter, Dr Kharventhan noted that when he met the Justice in his chambers on a Sunday evening, he found him diligently dictating judgments. When asked why he was working on a public holiday, Justice Swaminathan simply remarked, **"I am paid a salary for Sundays too."**

This level of integrity and neutrality is even echoed by several Congress leaders who, despite their party's official stance, privately laud his unwavering dedication. By targeting such a prolific and committed member of the judiciary over a single contentious ruling, the political class risks demoralising the very institution meant to safeguard the citizens' rights.

A Threat to Judicial Sovereignty and Global Standing

The repercussions of this motion extend far beyond the borders of Tamil Nadu, threatening to undermine the very bedrock of our democracy. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, **92 retired judges** of the Supreme Court and various High Courts have submitted a formal representation to the Speaker, cautioning that weaponising impeachment

against a judge for a specific verdict is a "brazen attempt to browbeat the judiciary."

Speaking to *PreSense*, Justice Dr Vallinayagam, former Judge of the Karnataka High Court, warned that if the Speaker permits such motions based merely on judicial disagreement, it will trigger "chaos and confusion," effectively stripping judges of the fearlessness required to uphold the law. India's global reputation as a vibrant democracy rests largely on its independent judiciary; any perception that the bench is being intimidated by the executive could diminish our international standing. Notably, while several impeachment motions have been initiated since Independence, **none have ever been passed by Parliament**, reflecting the historical understanding that this is a safeguard for justice, not a political tool for expressing dissatisfaction.

Conclusion: Returning to the Rule of Law

Ultimately, this standoff serves as a stark reminder of Dr Ambedkar's warning to eschew the "Grammar of Anarchy" in favour of constitutional methods. For the sake of short-term electoral gains, political parties are venturing into dangerous territory that may alienate even the very minority communities they seek to woo. Secularism in the Indian context must mean the equitable protection of all faiths and traditions—including the lighting of a sacred lamp—rather than the selective suppression of one to appease another.

When the judiciary remains the last resort for the common man, its independence must be guarded with a religious zeal. We must move away from the toxic culture of vote-bank politics and return to a system where judicial orders are contested through appeals in the Supreme Court, not through threats in the Parliament. Only by respecting the Rule of Law over the whims of political expediency can we ensure that the lamp of justice remains lit for every Indian citizen.

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About the Book

This book is the compilation of all the editorials published in the eMagazine PreSense during 2025.

About the Authors

K. Srinivasan, popularly known as Prime Point Srinivasan, is a former banker who transitioned into public relations and digital journalism in 1998. A communication and perception management expert, he founded the Prime Point Foundation in 1999. On the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, he launched the eMagazine *PreSense* and the prestigious Sansad Ratna Awards. He also established the Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI) and Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL). He has authored several books on digital media. He has been honoured with several prestigious awards. He is presently the Publisher and Managing Editor of PreSense.



Ramesh Sundaram, Joint Managing Editor of *PreSense*, brings over 35 years of journalistic expertise from *The Hindu*. A master of editing and translation, he authored the *Stylebook for Digital Journalists*. He serves on the DiJAI Advisory Board and the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee.

