PreSense Speaks Series

Prime Point Foundation

SPECTRUM OF THOUGHTS



ADVOCATE PRIYADHARSHNI RAHUL

EDITOR IN CHIEF - PRESENSE

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.

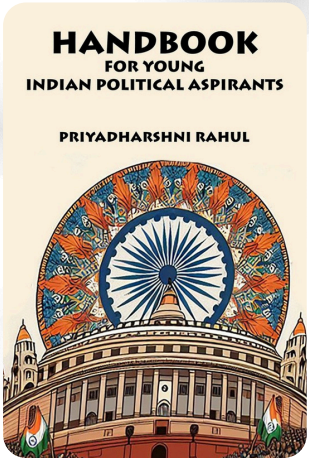
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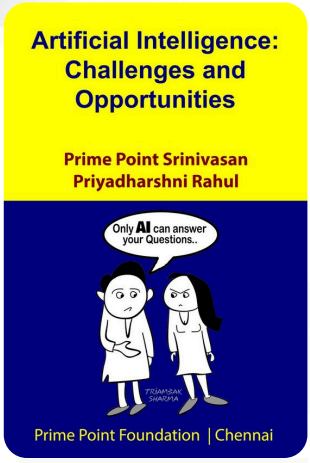
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28th May 2015

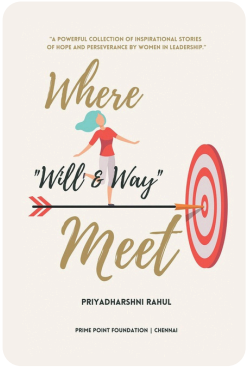
A.P.J.Abdul Kalam

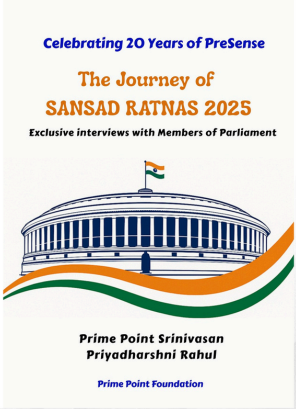
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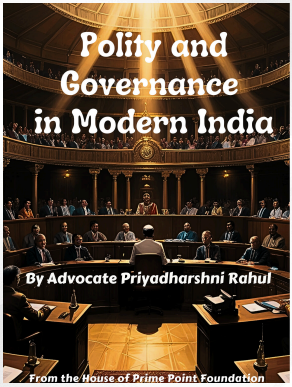


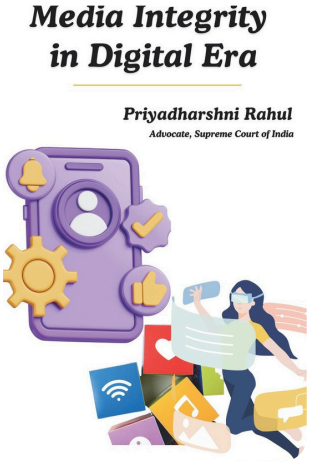


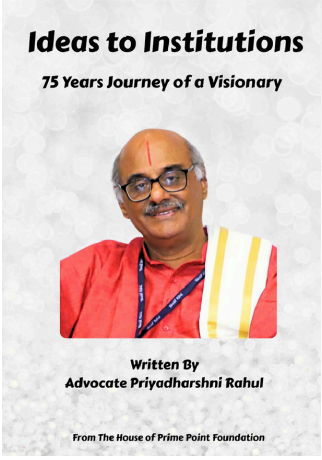


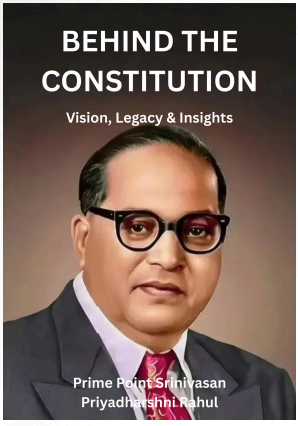


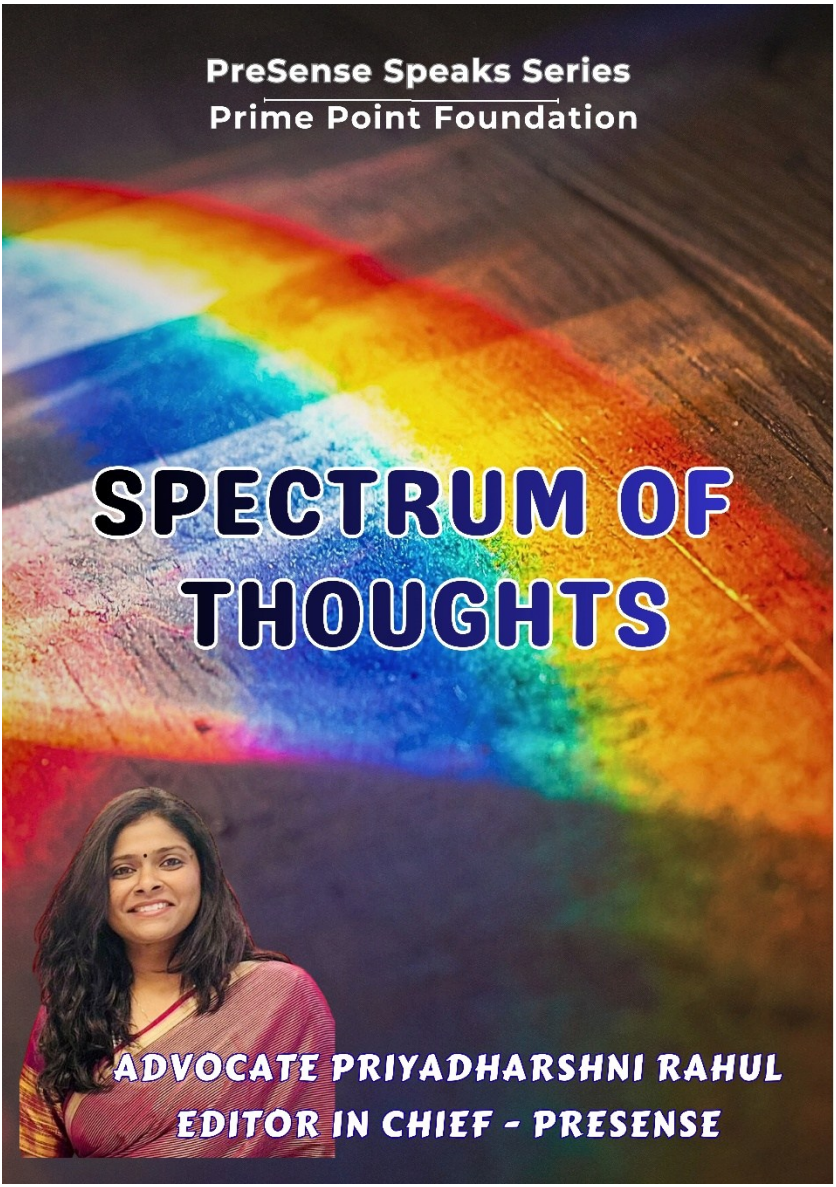











PreSense Speaks Series
Prime Point Foundation
SPECTRUM OF THOUGHTS
ADVOCATE PRIYADHARSHNI RAHUL
EDITOR IN CHIEF - PRESENSE

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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!** 🙏

Introduction

Foreword From Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam For The PreSense100

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
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28th May 2015

(A.P.J.Abdul Kalam)

Author's Profile

Priyadharshni Rahul, Supreme Court Advocate with dual degrees in Political Science and Law, plus a master's in psychology, Editor-in-Chief of PreSense and President of Prime Point Foundation, Digital Journalists Association of India, and Next Gen Political Leaders.



A distinguished achiever from childhood—Duke of Edinburgh Award, President's Award, Prime Minister's Award for leading Tamil Nadu NCC at Republic Day 2005, and India's Youth Ambassador to UK—she has authored six books and received multiple recognitions, including the Dr Abdul Kalam Award of Excellence.

She is a motivational speaker and writer. She has authored 10 books, including this book. She has received several awards including Dr Abdul Kalam Internal Award and PRCI's National Award as Young Visionary. India Book of Records (IBR) has also recognised her services and included her in the world records.

She is the Central Government Counsel at the Supreme Court of India and the Assistant Standing Counsel for the New Delhi Municipal Corporation and Counsel for Municipal Corporation of Delhi. She is one of the busiest advocates in Delhi. She has been assisting many senior Parliamentarians, including Chairmen of Joint Parliamentary Committees on legal matters. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Indian Parliamentary democracy.

***

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

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 233 editions published till July 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 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.

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Author's Note

Writing for *PreSense*, India's oldest digital-only eMagazine, has been a journey of profound discovery and responsibility. Since its inception in 2006, this publication has stood as a beacon of positive and ethical journalism. The articles featured in this compilation represent a curated selection of my work published over the years. While these pieces were penned at different moments in our recent history, the themes they explore—from the nuances of our judicial framework and the complexities of political ethics to the resilience of the human spirit during the pandemic—remain deeply relevant to the challenges and opportunities we face today.

This volume provides a broad overview of the diverse landscape of modern India. Within these pages, you will find explorations into our evolving legal landscape, the shifting paradigms of digital communication, and the critical importance of leadership and gender empowerment. It has been my endeavour to look beyond the immediate headlines to examine the underlying values that shape our society, whether discussing the "Brain Drain" phenomenon, the nuances of secularism, or the simple, extraordinary act of hair donation for cancer patients. Through these varied subjects, the constant thread remains a commitment to

"Spreading Positive Vibrations" and fostering a well-informed, empathetic citizenry.

My journey as a writer and editor has been nurtured by a remarkable team of mentors and peers. I owe a debt of immense gratitude to **Prime Point Srinivasan**, our Publisher and Managing Editor. His visionary leadership, unwavering passion for digital journalism, and constant encouragement have been the driving force behind my professional growth and the sustained success of *PreSense*. He has not only been a mentor but a pillar of strength, teaching me that persistence can indeed turn visions into reality.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to **Ramesh Sundaram**, our Joint Managing Editor, for his meticulous editing and tireless efforts in proofreading these articles. His sharp eye for detail and commitment to excellence have been invaluable in refining the quality of this compilation.

Furthermore, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the members of the **Editorial Board of PreSense**. Their collective wisdom, encouragement, and support have created a collaborative environment where ethical journalism can truly thrive.

The Prime Point Foundation is publishing this compilation with the hope that these insights will serve as a valuable resource for youngsters and readers alike. As we navigate an era of rapid technological change and evolving social norms, I hope these pages inspire you to engage deeply with the world around you and contribute to the positive transformation of our nation.

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PRIME POINT
Foundation
Sansad Ratna
Awards Committee

Articles Published in PreSense

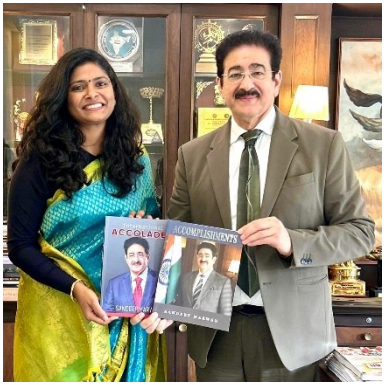
The Magic of Media: A Masterclass in Vision and Resilience with Dr Sandeep Marwah, Founder, Noida Film City

(Dr. Sandeep Marwah, the "Man of Many Firsts," overcame bureaucratic resistance to build Noida Film City and AAFT, training 35,000 professionals while pioneering AI and digital storytelling in global media.)

Introduction

Last month, *PreSense* launched an exclusive series dedicated to the "Great Visionaries of India", seeking to uncover the grit behind the glory and the struggles behind the success. In this second instalment, we are honoured to feature Dr Sandeep Marwah, a titan of the global media landscape whose life's work defines visionary leadership. Often referred to as the 'Man of Many Firsts', Dr Marwah is the architect of Noida Film City, the founder of the world-renowned Marwah Studios, and the visionary behind the Asian Academy of Film & Television (AAFT). Having trained over 35,000 professionals across 145 countries, he has turned a once-silent region of North India into a global media hub. In this deep-dive interview with Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor-in-Chief of *PreSense*, Dr Marwah shares his harrowing early struggles against bureaucracy and his unwavering belief in the future of digital and AI-driven storytelling.

Priyadharshni Rahul: Good afternoon, Sir. As part of our series on great visionaries, I want to explore the foundation of your success. Looking at the vast media empire you have built over 40 years, it is easy to see the achievement, but I want to know about the struggles. Where did the spark—and the resistance—begin?



Dr Sandeep Marwah presenting the book to Priyadharshni Rahul

Dr Sandeep Marwah: Well, let me start by clarifying—it is not an empire; I prefer to think of it as a humble place of learning. The achievement you see today was born from immense dissatisfaction. Back in 1986, while working in Bombay, I was frustrated by how scattered the industry was—studios were miles apart, and there was no cohesive planning.

After visiting Hollywood and seeing their efficient "colony" of studios, I envisioned a dedicated Film City for North India. But the struggle was immediate. In the mid-80s, there was no film culture in the North. Proposing a Film City was treated as a joke; it was like looking for water on Mars. I wanted 100 acres in New Delhi, but officials were incredibly reluctant and, frankly, dismissive. They wouldn't even read my file. People were ruthless in their rejection.

Priyadharshni Rahul: Visionaries often face the most pushback when they try to bring structure to chaos. How did you break through that wall of "No"?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: I had to pivot. I turned to the Noida Authority. Luckily, the Chairman was looking for a fresh, "charming" project to define the city. Even then, it was a bureaucratic marathon. It took a full year of formalities, moving from Noida to Lucknow, through the Finance Board and the Chief Minister. When I finally got word in December 1987 that the Noida Film City project was cleared, I could not hold back my tears. It wasn't just a business win; it was a victory over everyone who said it was impossible.

Priyadharshni Rahul: The mark of a true visionary is seeing a problem and building the solution. You didn’t just build a studio; you built a school. Was that because you couldn't find the talent you needed?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: Exactly. When we started Marwah Studios—the first professional studio in North India—we had the buildings but no people. We didn’t even have a qualified lightsman. I had to pick up local labourers, electricians, and vegetable vendors and train them myself.

Then, the "channel invasion" hit in 1991. Zee, Star, NDTV—they were all launching and needed space and staff. I realised that to sustain the Film City, I had to create the workforce. That is how AAFT (Asian Academy of Film & Television) was born. We turned the studio floor into a classroom. My students were getting three years’ worth of professional experience in just three months because they were working with national broadcasters every single day.



Priyadharshni Rahul: Today, Noida Film City is a behemoth. What does the "achievement" look like in numbers now?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: It is currently the fastest-growing film city in the world. We have 100 acres—75 for outdoor sets and 25 for indoor. There are 16 studios here, and from this ground, 350 channels are broadcast to 162 countries around the clock. We have roughly 17,000 media professionals working in three shifts, and approximately 150,000 people earn their livelihoods because of this ecosystem.

Priyadharshni Rahul: You have always been ahead of the curve, particularly with mobile cinema and now AI. What drives you to keep innovating when you have already achieved so much?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: A visionary cannot stop at one success. Twenty years ago, people laughed when I mentioned flying

cars or shooting cinema on a mobile phone. Today, those are realities. I never want my students to be "aliens" to new technology. We introduced AI into our curriculum four years ago. While others are still debating its impact, we have already produced a film using AI. You have to reinvent yourself constantly; the only constant is change.

Priyadharshni Rahul: Looking into your crystal ball, where is the media industry headed in the next two decades?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: We are entering a "magical world" that is actually a reinvention of ancient technical soundness. The next leap is laser technology—where chips in your hand will project "air computers," and physical devices will become obsolete. We are even seeing research into "past-viewing" technology, where we can reconstruct past events at a location through advanced imaging.

However, I also see a necessary correction. We are reaching a point of digital excess. Much like the "idiot box" (television) obsession eventually faded, people are starting to get "sick" of being glued to mobiles. A "digital detox" is coming.

Priyadharshni Rahul: Beyond technology, your work has a deep spiritual and diplomatic side. How does your philosophy of "Love, Peace, and Unity" fit into a ruthless media world?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: Art and culture are the only ways to bring the world together. I chair the International Chamber of Media and Entertainment Industry, and we have reached a consensus with 92 countries. Political conflicts like Israel-Palestine or Russia-Ukraine exist, but in the world of art, we remain united. I have been honoured as a cultural ambassador

by many nations because they recognise that the media has a responsibility beyond just profit—it creates perceptions.

Priyadharshni Rahul: To conclude, what is your advice to the young visionaries who look at your 40-year journey as their blueprint?

Dr Sandeep Marwah: Understand that media is a sacred responsibility. Our first job is to ensure that we don't make our audience feel "sick" or hopeless. To be a visionary, you must be truthful, genuine, and deeply patriotic. Sustainability in any field—but especially media—comes only when you keep your country and your countrymen at the heart of everything you do.

Priyadharshni Rahul: Thank you, Dr Marwah, for sharing the struggle and the incredible vision behind Noida Film City.

Dr Sandeep Marwah: Thank you.

(Published in the February 2026 edition of PreSense)

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The Mirage of the Ballot: Why Perception Audits Succeed Where Exit Polls Fail

(As major State Assemblies prepare for elections, we explore the fundamental mechanics of human perception, the 'Trinity of Truth', and why even the most scientific polling methods struggle to mirror the final reality of the ballot box effectively.)

The human mind is the most complex landscape any researcher can navigate. Whether in a boardroom or in a voting booth, the decisions people make are driven by a force that is often invisible but always absolute: perception. To understand why predictions often falter, we must first understand how this "mental impression" is construed, constructed, and, more importantly, how it is captured.

The Five Pillars: The Architecture of Perception

Perception is not an overnight phenomenon; it is a slow, cumulative process built on five distinct foundations. The first is **Performance**, the bedrock of what an individual or organisation actually does. The second is **Experience**, based on the direct, personal interactions a stakeholder has with an entity. The third is **What Others Say**, where we rely on reports from friends, contacts, or media reviews to form our view. The fourth, and perhaps most volatile, is **Rumours**, where misinformation and false reports spread

through social media or word of mouth like a wildfire, and can damage a reputation even when performance is strong. Finally, there are **Illusions**, the manufactured narratives and "brand values" that are created to project an organisation or individual as the best, often through repeated media narratives.

Together, these pillars create a "Hidden Perception"—a deep-seated view that people often hesitate to share openly due to fear of retribution, professional consequences, or social embarrassment.

The Trinity of Truth and the Image Audit Process

To unlock these "locked minds," a revolutionary research tool known as the **Image Audit** is employed. It is a **Master Perception Check-up** designed to evaluate the soul of an organisation. However, capturing the truth requires a specific clinical environment that leverages the **Trinity of Truth**. Experience has shown that individuals are only "brutally frank" on three specific occasions: when they are **Anonymous**, when they are in a **Group**, and when they are speaking to a **Third Person**.

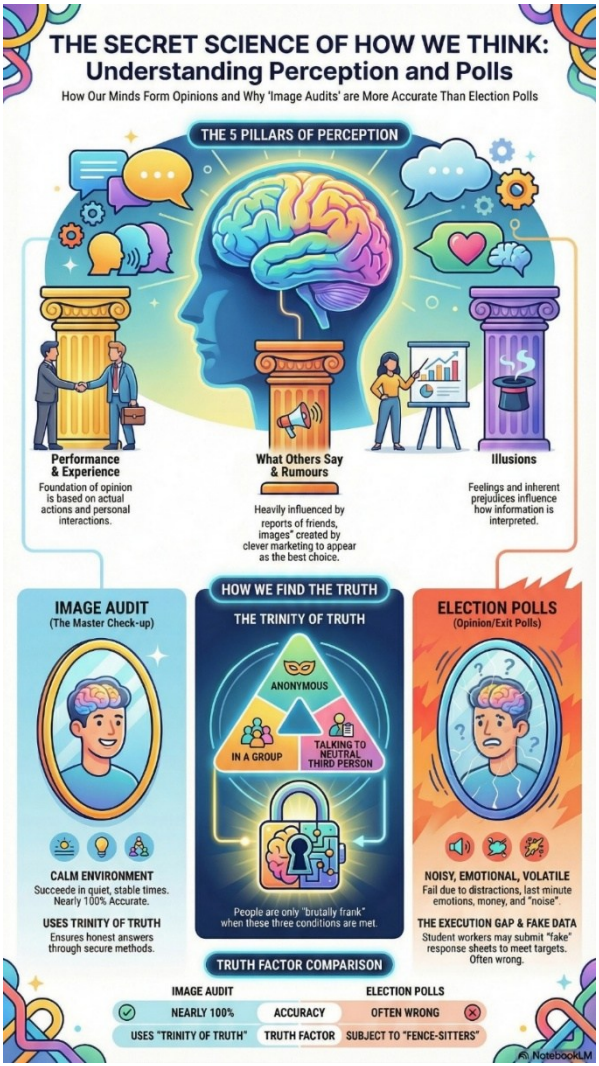
The Image Audit process begins with a confidential discussion with management to identify the real areas of concern and the specific "publics" to be studied. We then design a precise questionnaire that avoids seeking the respondent's name, address, or any other finer identity to ensure they feel safe. During administration, stakeholders

are assembled in a group. We act as the neutral "Third Person," ensuring they do not consult each other. This creates a sense of collective safety where respondents feel free to share their "first perception"—the rawest form of truth—without overthinking.

The Significance of the Calm Environment and Emerging Patterns

The most vital component of a successful Image Audit is the environment. I always choose a **"calm day"** for administration. This means avoiding periods immediately following salary hikes, promotions, or internal crises. Perception is a variable that can oscillate wildly due to temporary emotions, and by waiting for the situation to settle, we capture the realistic, baseline perception.

In such a controlled, tranquil setting, the Image Audit has proven to achieve nearly 100 percent accuracy in unearthing the hidden mindset of stakeholders. One fascinating aspect of this process is that even when respondents do not consult each other and give their views in different groups, a clear pattern or trend always emerges. In my experience, even if I am studying 5000 responses, the same trend or pattern of perception will be visible after analysing just 500 random sheets. This uniformity reveals that while perception is individual, the collective mindset of a group reacting to a shared environment is remarkably consistent.


THE SECRET SCIENCE OF HOW WE THINK:
Understanding Perception and Polls
How Our Minds Form Opinions and Why 'Image Audits' are More Accurate Than Election Polls
THE 5 PILLARS OF PERCEPTION
Performance & Experience
Foundation of opinion is based on actual actions and personal interactions.
What Others Say & Rumours
Heavily influenced by reports of friends, images" created by clever marketing to appear as the best choice.
Illusions
Feelings and inherent prejudices influence how information is interpreted.
IMAGE AUDIT
(The Master Check-up)
CALM ENVIRONMENT
Succeede in quiet, stable times. Nearly 100% Accurate.
USES TRINITY OF TRUTH
Ensures honest answers through secure methods.
HOW WE FIND THE TRUTH
THE TRINITY OF TRUTH
ANONYMOUS
IN A GROUP
TALKING TO NEUTRAL THIRD PERSON
People are only "brutally frank" when these three conditions are met.
ELECTION POLLS
(Opinion/Exit Polls)
NOISY, EMOTIONAL, VOLATILE
Fail due to distractions, last minute emotions, money, and "noise".
THE EXECUTION GAP & FAKE DATA
Student workers may submit "fake" response sheets to meet targets. Often wrong.
TRUTH FACTOR COMPARISON
IMAGE AUDIT
ELECTION POLLS
NEARLY 100%
ACCURACY
OFTEN WRONG
USES "TRINITY OF TRUTH"
TRUTH FACTOR
SUBJECT TO "FENCE-SITTERS"
NotebookLM

The Political Mirror: Opinion and Exit Polls

When we shift our focus to politics, we see that opinion and exit polls are essentially attempting the same task: an audit of hidden perception. However, the study of perception in the political arena faces a vastly different challenge. While the formation of perception follows the same five pillars, the context differs significantly.

Unlike the calm environment of a corporate office or a college hall, elections are held in a **noisy environment**. Till the very last minute, the voter's mind is a battlefield of religion, caste, cash for vote, local emotions, and last-minute sympathy factors. This constant noise makes it almost impossible to find a settled baseline before the vote is cast. Recent history in States like **Maharashtra**, **Madhya Pradesh**, and **Bihar** has shown that even the most anticipated predictions can go entirely wrong because they fail to account for this volatile, last-minute shift in the voter's perception.

Understanding Trends and Waves

Just like in an Image Audit, political perceptions often follow a broader trend or pattern. We can see this when entire blocks of districts vote for a particular party. A classic example is the 1977 general elections. Despite the absence of a high-profile campaign following the Emergency, a clear pattern emerged: the entire South voted for Indira Gandhi, while the entire North voted against her, leading to her own

defeat. Similarly, emotional impacts were reflected in the voting pattern after the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

In the world of polling, we refer to these emerging patterns as a "wave" or "anti-incumbency." While opinion and exit polls may not achieve the 100 percent accuracy of a controlled Image Audit, they can still help researchers feel the general trend or pattern in favour of or against a particular party. The challenge lies in accurately predicting the final outcome when that trend is subjected to the extreme noise of an election.

The Execution Gap: The Reality of the Field

It is pertinent to state here that the administrators of major opinion and exit polls are often highly reputed professionals who follow rigorous, scientific sampling methods. Their inability to predict results accurately is rarely a failure of their science, but rather a failure of execution and the human element at the ground level.

The agencies, in good faith, often entrust the data collection to colleges, which in turn engage students. These students are typically paid based on the number of completed response sheets they submit. I was a personal witness to a scene that reveals the flaw in this chain. During a recent election, two media students were assigned to an exit poll at a booth near my house. I observed them standing at only one entrance of the street, stopping voters as they returned.

The booth had 1200 registered voters, but being an educated middle-class area, the actual turnout was only 450. However, the students had been given a target of 600 response sheets. At the end of the day, I discovered they had submitted the full 600 sheets to their professor. Since only 450 people had voted—and many of those had walked past the students without responding—it was clear that hundreds of these sheets were fake, filled out by the students themselves to ensure they were paid. This "Execution Gap" means that the highly scientific models of the agencies are often being fed "fake" data from the ground, rendering the final predictions useless.

The Human Mind versus the Algorithm

The most unpredictable factor in any election is the "fence-sitter." Many Members of Parliament have shared that approximately 15 percent of voters remain undecided until they are standing before the ballot box. Many Sansad Ratna Award winners use their final hours of campaigning to project their independent recognition as a "seal of performance," which can tilt these crucial undecided voters at the very last second.

Ultimately, poll predictions struggle because no scientific method can truly enter the mind of a voter in those final, influenced moments. In an Image Audit, the controlled environment allows us to see the reflection clearly. In an election, the mirror is constantly shaking.

We must conclude that as long as voters do not feel the safety required to come out frankly, even the most advanced technological tools and scientific models will have limited value. Before the depth and mystery of the human mind, every algorithm must eventually bow. The only poll that can ever be 100 percent accurate is the one counted when the noise finally stops, and the boxes are opened.

(Published in the February 2026 edition of PreSense)

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Top Performers of 18th Lok Sabha up to Winter Session 2025



Now that the Budget Session 2026 has started, PreSense brings out the analysis of the performance of Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for the period from June 2024 till the end of the Winter Session 2025. Performance of Members of Parliament is evaluated as to how they participate in the proceedings, viz. Initiated debates, Private Members' Bills, Questions, and Supplementary Questions. A Quick Review of the performances of MPs:

Data courtesy: PRS Legislative Research

This analysis is based on the performance of all MPs from June 2024 till the end of the Winter Session 2025 (coinciding with the 18th Lok Sabha)

Top performers for Total Tally (Initiated debates + Private Members Bills + Questions + Supplementary Questions)

Lok Sabha

Rank	Name	State	Total Tally
1	**Praveen Patel**	Uttar Pradesh	252
2	**Smita Uday Wagh**	Maharashtra	250
3	**Bidyut Baran Mahato**	Jharkhand	240

Rajya Sabha

Rank	Name	State	Total Tally
1	**Medha Vishram Kulkarni**	Maharashtra	**348**
2	**Brijlal**	Uttar Pradesh	**311**
3	**Narayana Koragappa**	Karnataka	**311**

Top Performers for Initiated Debates

Lok Sabha

Rank	Name	State	Initiated Debates
1	**N K Premachandran**	Kerala	68
2	**Hanuman Beniwal**	Rajasthan	55
3	**Jagdambika Pal**	Uttar Pradesh	53

(Note: Sougata Ray from West Bengal also initiated 53 debates.)

Rajya Sabha

Rank	Name	State	Debates Initiated
1	**M. Thambidurai**	Tamil Nadu	51
2	**Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan**	Maharashtra	49
3	**Sandosh Kumar**	Kerala	45

Congratulations to the top performers.

In the February edition, we will analyse the performance of Parliamentary Standing Committees.

(Published in the January 2026 edition of PreSense)

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Naresh Ganpat Mhaske MP: From Slum to Sansad Ratna in Maiden Term



Shri Naresh Ganpat Mhaske, first-term Member of Parliament for Thane, rose from student activism in the Bharatiya Vidyarthi Sena to civic leadership as Mayor of Thane before entering the Lok Sabha in 2024. In his maiden year as Member of Parliament itself, he secured the coveted Sansad Ratna Award 2025 for his prolific parliamentary interventions and tireless constituency work, earning 7,34,000 votes on the strength of his grassroots rapport. In this exclusive PreSense conversation, the commerce graduate reflects on his journey, the hurdles he overcame, and his vision for

addressing urban challenges across Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mira-Bhayandar. Excerpts:

What inspired you to join politics, and were there any pivotal moments or influences that led you to dedicate yourself to public service?



While studying at college, I began helping fellow students resolve their everyday problems, which drew me into the Bharatiya Vidyarthi Sena and, through it, into active politics. My greatest inspiration was my mentor, Dharmaveer Anand Dighe Saheb — a tireless champion of Thane's citizens whose dedication deeply influenced me. I grew up in a slum where residents struggled with basics such as water, electricity, roads, drainage, toilets, health, and cleanliness, and I made it my mission to tackle these challenges. Whenever required, I led protests on behalf of local people and students, and that journey steadily deepened my engagement in public life.

Every political journey has challenges. Could you share the key difficulties you faced and how you overcame them?

While serving the public, I faced constant opposition from rival parties: some adversaries had criminal backgrounds, others possessed great wealth or inherited political influence, and all were keen to criticise and target me. Yet

I never allowed fear or discouragement to take hold of me. I worked with unwavering dedication and consistency, remained closely connected to citizens, and patiently addressed their problems. I also forged strong ties with cultural and social organisations. Staying totally focused, maintaining public contact, and working tirelessly, I overcame those political challenges.

As the Member of Parliament for Thane, what do you regard as your most impactful contributions, both in Parliament and in your constituency?

Although only a year has passed since my election, I have already raised numerous important issues in Parliament, especially the people's long-pending railway demands, and have pursued them with sustained follow-up. Thane Lok Sabha constituency is entirely urban, covering Thane, Navi Mumbai, and Mira-Bhayandar. I concentrate on matters within those municipal areas and keep in constant dialogue with residents to understand and address their concerns and problems.

How do you balance party responsibilities with a commitment to voters' welfare, and what keeps you motivated?

Though elected on a party ticket, I maintain direct personal contact with constituents and strive to balance party duties with public welfare. Solving citizens' problems is my priority. Fulfilling promises, staying accessible, and witnessing the

positive results of our efforts continually motivate me to push for further change.

You received the Sansad Ratna Award in 2025. How did that recognition feel, and what does it mean to you?

I was delighted to receive the Sansad Ratna Award. Being honoured in my very first year makes it especially meaningful and has strengthened my positive image among voters. Parliamentary speaking time is limited, but I seized each opportunity to raise significant public issues. That proactive engagement earned me the reputation of an active MP who champions people's rights. The award has boosted my confidence and motivates me to work even harder.

In your view, what are the most pressing problems facing Thane today, and how are you addressing them in Parliament?

Thane is a fully urban constituency, so many issues come under the State Government and Municipal Corporations, requiring constant follow-up. The most serious concern is the railways: passenger numbers have soared, necessitating more trains, and there is an urgent need for modernised stations and better facilities. I have raised these demands vigorously in Parliament, and improvement works have already begun at many stations.

What advice would you offer young people wishing to build a career in politics and create meaningful change?

More young citizens should step forward. Politics offers a powerful platform for public service, and the greater the number of educated youth participating, the better the changes we can bring for society, helping curb the commercialisation of politics and strengthening democracy.

Women's representation is vital. Why should more women enter politics, and how can they be supported?

Women are always welcome in politics, but must not become mere figureheads. Some enter through reservation yet remain controlled by others. Women should come forward with their ideas and have independence in their thoughts, refusing to be managed like puppets.

Reflecting on your journey to the Sansad Ratna Award, which values and principles have guided you?

Consistency, honesty, and prioritising ordinary citizens have guided me. I never tried to project myself as a leader; instead, I worked as a common karyakarta. That approach earned me 7,34,000 votes and, more importantly, the community's trust.

Your background is in commerce. How has education shaped your approach to policy-making, and does

diverse academic exposure enrich parliamentary debate?

Education equips us to study precedent, understand policy, and act with a disciplined mindset. It undeniably improves performance in Parliament. Diversity of educational backgrounds enhances debate and decision-making, so I strongly advocate higher learning for all aspiring public representatives.

(Published in the June 2025 edition of PreSense)

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Dr. Medha Kulkarni MP: Champion of Women's Empowerment and Cultural Heritage



Hon. MP Dr. Medha Kulkarni represents the epitome of principled leadership and grassroots empowerment in Indian politics. A distinguished educator-turned-politician, she has served as Corporator, MLA, and now Rajya Sabha MP whilst simultaneously holding the position of National Vice President of BJP Mahila Morcha. Her unwavering commitment to women's rights, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation has earned her the prestigious Sansad Ratna Award in her debut parliamentary year. This exclusive interview for eMagazine PreSense explores her remarkable journey from academia to Parliament, her transformative initiatives for women's

empowerment, and her vision for India's future development. Excerpts:

You began your career as an academic before entering politics in 1998. Could you share what inspired your transition from the classroom to public service, and what challenges you faced during those early years in politics?



I entered electoral politics in 2002 through municipal corporation elections, but the roots of my public life go much deeper. I grew up in a household where service to the nation and society wasn't just talked about — it was lived day in and day out. My father, Dr Madhukar Patankar, a freedom fighter, was jailed for two years during the Goa Liberation Movement. Later, as a practising doctor, I saw him routinely treat patients who couldn't afford care, often without charging a single rupee. That kind of selflessness left a deep impression on me.

My husband, Shri Vishram Kulkarni, was also deeply involved in social work, particularly with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). I too was involved in many social and Sangh activities. As a teacher and professor, my core belief has always been to bring about positive change in society and contribute to nation-building. While education and instilling good values in classrooms can create lasting

change, I realised that politics offers a broader platform for transformation. I believe that good politicians can build a nation through development and social service.

This conviction led me to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) through the women's wing in Pune. I was tasked with leading the Annyaay Nivaran Samiti, a cell focused on reducing injustice and atrocities against women. In 2002, the party urged me to contest the municipal elections in my residential area, and I won the election for Corporator from a reserved seat for women. This marked my entry into electoral politics.

In those early years, the primary challenges I faced were societal and bureaucratic. People, especially men, weren't accustomed to a woman independently taking on a leadership role. However, I personally handled all tasks, decisions, meetings, speeches, research, and interactions with officials from the very beginning. In fact, being a woman turned out to be an advantage; I could connect directly with women in their homes and organise them effectively.

Another challenge was the bureaucratic mindset. Officials often resist any public representative, but when a woman representative approached them, their first thought was outright dismissal. Women are expected to be agreeable by default, which is difficult when you're elected to fight for people's issues.

Reflecting on your time as a corporator in Pune and later as an MLA, what do you consider your most significant achievements prior to your election to the Rajya Sabha?

I served three terms as Corporator (2002-2014) and one term as MLA (2014-2019). Being a public representative allows me to contribute more effectively due to the officiality of the position and the ability to allocate necessary funds.

I established study centres and gymnasiums and set up anganwadis during my tenure. I believe anganwadis are especially crucial institutions impacting early childhood education. I organised various training programmes for women, including vocational training and free courses to help them achieve self-reliance. I initiated literacy classes for women who primarily earned their living through small household chores, teaching them basic literacy, which significantly boosted their confidence.

For children in slum areas, I set up free study centres and libraries. Another significant achievement was creating a grand memorial at the site where Veer Savarkar had famously burnt foreign clothes during the freedom struggle. The memorial includes a museum and library.

I contributed to the PMC's hawkers' policy and played a vital role in AIDS awareness programmes. I established free clinics in slum areas and spearheaded initiatives for people with disabilities, including providing free prosthetics and

distributing wheelchairs. I set up free gymnasiums primarily for women, along with yoga classes.

Being passionate about the environment, I organise large-scale cycle rallies every year on the Honourable Prime Minister Modi's birthday. As an MLA, I funded rainwater harvesting projects in many housing societies within my constituency and commissioned audits providing before-and-after groundwater level reports to demonstrate effectiveness.

One of my most significant contributions was addressing severe traffic congestion at Chandni Chowk. I collaborated with the Honourable Minister Nitin Gadkari to develop a major six-lane integrated plan under the NHAI, costing 900 crore rupees. I also played a major role in implementing the Metro city development plan and took initiative on projects like the Pashan Lake and Ram Nadi project. I also established free legal aid centres and career guidance centres.

Your political journey has been shaped by your family's legacy and your association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Who have been your key mentors or sources of inspiration, and how have they influenced your approach to leadership?

My political journey has been deeply shaped by RSS ideology, instilling profound respect for the thoughts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Veer Savarkar in me. I

believe in dedicating one's life to larger national goals and considering the individual secondary to the nation.

Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an inclusive personality with exceptional oratory skills. His ability to articulate and explain a point was remarkable, deeply influencing my political style. Shri Lal Krishna Advani was a principled politician whose Rath Yatra provided the strong inspiration for staunch Hindutva. Late Pramod Mahajan was a true perfectionist who demanded meticulous planning and execution in every task.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat, demonstrated how a leader could be accessible to anyone, even ordinary citizens. He set an example of transparent governance and accessibility that greatly influenced my commitment to good governance.

What lessons from their leadership have you applied in your political career?

From Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pramod Mahajan, I have learnt the importance of studying an issue thoroughly and articulating it effectively. From Advani Ji, I learned the lesson of being firm and principled in decisions when necessary.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's working style is very unique. He's taken on the monumental task of advancing the nation in terms of development, preserving Indian culture, and ensuring national security. The significant

developments under his tenure in such a short time are unparalleled. He brought in radical changes through initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat. This inspires me to ensure that no issue concerning our citizens' needs goes unaddressed.

As National Vice President of the BJP Mahila Morcha, you have worked extensively to promote women's participation in politics. In your view, why is it essential for more women to join public life, and what barriers still need to be addressed?

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, numerous women-centric schemes have been launched nationwide, including Matru Vandana Yojana, Lakhpati Didi, Mudra Loan Yojana, Ujjwala Gas, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. To ensure effective implementation at the grassroots level, a force of women activists is vital.

Through the BJP Mahila Morcha in various States, a large number of local women have benefited from these initiatives. Women activists and leaders are uniquely positioned to connect with local women, understand their needs, and bring about positive change. When a woman changes, it impacts her entire family and, by natural extension, the whole society. Therefore, more and more women must enter politics and utilise their positions to advance women's progress. It is crucial for them specifically and for society as a whole.

Could you elaborate on specific initiatives you have championed to empower women at the grassroots level?

As National Vice President of BJP Mahila Morcha, I extensively toured the country studying how Anganwadi programmes were implemented in various States. This research culminated in a 100-page report, which I submitted to the central government, presenting it to Prime Minister Modi and other relevant officials. I'm pleased that some recommendations have been implemented in States like Maharashtra.

I compiled a book titled "Mahilanchya Hakkachi Sanad" (Charter of Women's Rights) during my time as Corporator and MLA. This comprehensive compilation of laws relevant to women makes crucial information accessible to ordinary women.

Your advocacy for recognising Marathi as a classical language and your emphasis on rainwater harvesting are notable. What drives your focus on cultural and environmental issues?

If a language survives, culture survives, and if culture survives, the nation survives. Marathi is an ancient and classical language enriched through its journey via Sanskrit and Prakrit. As head of the Marathi Language Committee, I actively sought its recognition as a classical language.

Regarding rainwater harvesting, it's predicted that the next global conflicts will be over water. Environmental imbalance due to climate change shows shifts in rainfall patterns and seasons. I initiated changes in the criteria for using MLA funds, implementing rainwater harvesting in hundreds of societies within my constituency when I was an MLA. This resulted in rising groundwater levels, allowing societies to access water during summer. If such programmes are implemented throughout Maharashtra, we can avoid the cycle of floods followed by drought.

As a Member of Parliament, what is your vision for your future political career, and which areas do you intend to prioritise?

My focus isn't on my political future, but on how I can use this position to benefit Pune city's future. Pune is an incredibly important city with rich culture and heritage — an educational hub, cultural city, and IT hub.

Currently, Pune is expanding rapidly and undergoing significant cultural changes. My priority is ensuring that whilst we develop the city, we also preserve its cultural heritage. Issues like traffic congestion, unauthorised constructions, and encroachments have contributed to cities losing their original charm. My vision is to act as a link in creating a more law-abiding society and improving everyone's quality of life.

You were recently honoured with the Sansad Ratna Award. What does this recognition mean to you personally?

I'm incredibly grateful to the selection committee. The award is important to me. This recognition is a huge pat on the back and will undoubtedly motivate me to work even harder. When an individual receives an award, it's not just for them; it is for every team member.

This award truly emphasises my sense of responsibility. Even though I received it in my very first year, I know there's still so much to learn from my seniors. I intend to use this platform to master parliamentary procedures, ensure justice for the public, and address various national issues effectively.

For young Indians, especially women, who aspire to enter politics, what advice would you offer?

Our nation is young, and it's essential for this new generation to provide fresh direction to politics. My advice to anyone aspiring to public service is this: nothing is possible without thorough study. There's no shortcut to gaining knowledge.

You must study various subjects, understand the media, familiarise yourself with parliamentary tools and working procedures, and delve into the Constitution's various rules and articles. Beyond academic preparation, cultivate strong public speaking and communication skills, develop a

genuine passion for social work, and maintain sensitivity towards the public's problems. If you possess these qualities, I believe you can overcome any challenges and truly contribute to society.

(Published in the June 2025 edition of PreSense)

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Rewriting History: Shri Jagadambika Pal MP Speaks on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Path to Transparency

(The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 ensures transparency, curbs misuse of Waqf land, mandates inclusive representation, and restores constitutional rights, benefiting poor and backward Muslim communities.)

Introduction

The Indian Parliament's recent passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has ignited nationwide debate. The Act aims to reform the administration of Waqf properties, historically established for the welfare of poor Muslims but often plagued by allegations of misuse and corruption. Critics argue that previous laws allowed the Waqf Board to arbitrarily claim properties, including ancient temples and government land, without judicial recourse. The new amendment, which notably repeals Section 40, seeks to restore transparency and accountability. While some opposition parties have challenged the Act in the Supreme Court, with certain provisions stayed pending

judgement, many people across communities have welcomed the reforms.

In this context, Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor of PreSense,



Shri Jagadambika Pal, Chairman, Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf, with Smt. Priyadharshni Rahul

speaks with Shri Jagadambika Pal, Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that examined the Bill, to unravel the facts and dispel misconceptions.

A New Dawn for Waqf Properties: Addressing Decades of Mismanagement

PreSense: When you were appointed as Chairman of the JPC for the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, what was your initial reaction, given the sensitivity and national attention surrounding this committee?

Jagadambika Pal: On 8th August, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr Kiran Rijiju, presented the Bill in the House and requested its referral to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Honourable Speaker accepted and constituted the JPC, naming me its Chairman about a fortnight later. I took charge in August and immediately convened our first meeting. Over five months, we held 38 meetings, totalling more than 113 hours, unprecedented for any Parliamentary Committee. We met with 284 delegations, giving each two to three hours to present their views. Every stakeholder who wished to be heard was given the opportunity; there were no complaints of exclusion.

PreSense: The committee reportedly received over a crore emails. How did you manage such a massive response?

Jagadambika Pal: Indeed, we received more than a crore emails. I requested the Honourable Speaker for additional support, and 30 officers and staff were assigned to assist us for three months. We filtered out one-line emails expressing only agreement or disagreement, which comprised 50–60% of the total. Every email or letter with

substantive suggestions was reviewed line by line. Delegations also submitted written materials. It was a challenging task, but thanks to the dedication of the team, especially officers like Swathi Parwar, Disha, and Joint Secretary Mr Besak, we completed the report within six months, despite the sensitivity involved.

Inside the JPC: Unprecedented Consultations and Challenges

PreSense: How did you navigate the committee's most sensitive issues?

Jagadambika Pal: Patience was key. The proceedings were often tense, with some opposition MPs attempting to disrupt the process - one even threw a bottle at me, though fortunately I was not harmed. At times, arguments erupted in front of witnesses, which was embarrassing. However, I remained calm and focused on diffusing tensions, ensuring the committee's work continued uninterrupted.

PreSense: What was your experience leading such a historic and sensitive committee?

Jagadambika Pal: I never expected to chair the JPC. The decision was made by the party leadership, and I am grateful for their trust. It felt like a rigorous examination. The issue spans the entire country, from Kashmir to

Kanyakumari. There were days I worked for 12 hours straight to meet the tight deadlines set by the Home Minister and Speaker. We visited numerous States - Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, among others - often amid protests by farmers whose lands had suddenly been declared Waqf property. The 2013 amendment to Section 40 had given the Waqf Board unchecked powers, which led to widespread discontent and injustice.

Dispelling Myths: What the Amendment Means for the Muslim Community

PreSense: What message would you like to convey to Muslims who fear the implications of this amendment?

Jagadambika Pal: The vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and have not participated in protests. While the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board tried to incite opposition, most people simply offered prayers and left peacefully. Many poor Muslims, OBCs, Pasmandas, and even Muslim women intellectuals I met supported the Bill. Only a few vested interests, certain madrasas and minority organisations, are attempting to mislead the community.

The protests are largely orchestrated by a handful of Maulanas and minority groups. For example, during a dharna at Jantar Mantar called by the All-India Muslim

Personal Law Board, many attendees were unaware of the Bill's contents. It was clear the protest was sponsored. The common Muslim is not involved in these agitations.

Towards Inclusive Representation and Accountability

PreSense: What have you personally gained from chairing the JPC?

Jagadambika Pal: This experience has taught me patience like never before. For six months, I was fully dedicated to this task, working daily on reports and amendments. We faced resistance similar to that during the repeal of Article 370, Triple Talaq, and the CAA. Only after the Bill was introduced and the JPC formed did some Muslim organisations begin their protests.

PreSense: What are the key benefits for Muslims in these amendments?

Jagadambika Pal: The amendments bring significant advantages. Previously, OBCs, Pasmandas, and poor Muslims had no representation in the Waqf Board or the All-India Minority Council. Now, there will be mandatory representation for backward groups, including two women members, ensuring checks and balances. The income from Waqf properties will finally reach the poorest, orphans, and women, as was originally intended. Earlier, the Waqf Board

operated with unchecked powers, overriding constitutional rights and violating Articles 14, 15, 19, 21, and 300(A). This amendment restores constitutional balance and transparency. The matter is now before the courts, which I am confident will judge on merit.

PreSense: Thank you, Shri Jagadambika Pal, for sharing your insights and helping clarify the true intent and impact of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

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Podcast on the Interview with Hon'ble Jagadambika Pal

PreSense has created a Podcast with Notebooklm on the above interview with Shri Jagadambika Pal, Hon'ble Chairman of JPC on Waqf. Please watch this podcast, a conversation generated by AI.

https://youtu.be/FcupLbZPelw?si=wwW07b0fr8ejlp62

(Published in the April 2025 edition of PreSense)

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Two Decades of Digital Integrity: The Journey of PreSense

As PreSense enters its 20th year this March, Editor Priyadharshni Rahul sits down with Prime Point Srinivasan, Founder and Managing Editor, to trace the remarkable journey of India's oldest digital-only eMagazine and the vision that has sustained its commitment to positive journalism.



A Humble Beginning with a Vision for Change

Priyadharshni: Sir, as PreSense has completed 19 years and is entering its 20th year this March, could you take us back to how it all began?



July 2000 Seminar on Internet and Media

Prime Point Srinivasan: The seeds were sown much earlier than most people realise. In December 1999, we launched Prime Point Foundation as an NGO dedicated to spreading awareness among people about communication, journalism, and public relations. The foundation was inaugurated by Dr M S Swaminathan, Father of the Indian Green Revolution, and T S Raghavan, then Chairman of

Indian Bank. Our motto was to create awareness among legislators, business houses, and the general public about the importance of communication.

A Glimpse into the Future of Communication

Priyadharshni: What drew you specifically towards digital communication when traditional media was still dominant?

Prime Point Srinivasan: (smiles) I was fortunate to witness the birth of the Internet in India. I was present at the 'First day, First show' of the Internet launch at Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited in Chennai on 15th August 1995. At that time, I was the Founder–Secretary of the Public Sector Public Relations Forum of Tamil Nadu. Even with those primitive connections, I immediately sensed that the Internet would change the thumb rule of the game.

In July 2000, when the public was still struggling with 18 kbps speeds – imagine that compared to today's megabytes per second – I organised a seminar under Prime Point Foundation to create awareness about how the Internet would transform communication. Many media persons attended, with Prof. Sree Sreenivasan, Dean of Columbia School of Journalism, as our key speaker.

The Internet Dream That Faced Doubt

Priyadharshni: How did people respond to your vision then?

Prime Point Srinivasan: (laughs) They mocked me! The Internet was so slow that 'www' was jokingly described as 'world wide wait'. Print and broadcast media were ruling the roost, and few could imagine the imminent digital revolution. I could visualise the change but couldn't articulate it properly. In the year 2000 itself, I conducted three seminars on this topic.

Lessons from Early Attempts

Priyadharshni: I understand that PreSense wasn't your first digital publication attempt...



Newsletter - Interviews - Archives

Prime Point Foundation releases 'PRPoint Newsletter' every ten days for circulation amongst the PR and Communication professionals. Each of the issue of this newsletter will contain an 'exclusive' interview with one of the eminent professional on various related topics. Inorder to get the uninterrupted reading of the newsletter, please join the "image management" group (Please fill-in the email id on the left side of this page and click to join).

Vol No	Month	Topic	Interview
8	Jun 2002	Blogging	Mr Monsur Hossain, New York
7	May 2002	Managing the reputation	Mr Deon Binneman, CEO & President: REPUCOMM, Johannesburg, South Africa
6	May 2002	Industry Analyst Relations	Mr Ed Gyurko, Founder of Brand Illumination, New York
5	Apr 2002	Job market for PR professionals and the expectations from the employers	Ms Veena Solomon, Placement consultant, Bangalore, India
4	Apr 2002	Drafting of an effective Press Release - Dos and Don'ts	Dr I Arul Aram, Chief Sub Editor, The Hindu, Madras, India
3	Apr 2002	Media Training, Media campaign and spokesperson	Mr Al Rothstein, President, Al Rothstein Meida Services, Atalanta
2	Mar 2002	Brochures, logos and business cards	Mr Michael Reidy, Marketing Director, Bespoke Publications Ltd, London
1	Mar 2002	B2B Public Relations and Market entry study	Mr Frank M Shediac, Founder, Shediac Communications, Hong Kong

Prime Point Srinivasan: That's right. I was among the earliest in India to create online discussion groups way back in 1999 itself, for PR and media professionals. Being close to Dr Abdul Kalam, I created another group focused on India Vision to bring together young people for social service. I used platforms like egroups.com and onelist.com, which were later acquired by Yahoo.

In March 2002, I launched 'PR Point Newsletter', carrying interviews with international experts on communication trends. I distributed it through auto-responders – a

technology not popular then. I even featured an exclusive interview about 'Blogs' before they became mainstream. I was releasing issues every 10 days, but after eight editions, I had to close it down.

Priyadharshni: What happened?

Prime Point Srinivasan: (chuckles) Excepting myself, nobody was reading them! I had to step back and make a deep study of why my dream project failed.

A Turning Point with Presidential Encouragement

Priyadharshni: So how did PreSense eventually come into being?

Prime Point Srinivasan: The turning point came in 2006 when Dr Abdul Kalam suggested that I restart the digital magazine with positive content. In February 2006, some team members – Vidya, Sakthi Prasanna, Satish and I – met at my office and decided to relaunch the magazine using contemporary technology, content and distribution systems.

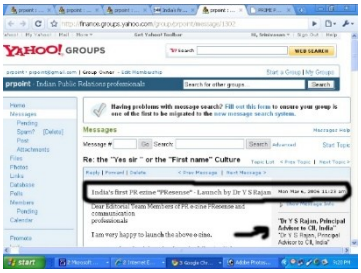
As we were all from the communication domain, we wanted to create a digital eMagazine on various aspects of communication for professionals. We named it PReSense, and Satish created the first masthead. ‘Communicate the Communication’ was our tag line.

Launching with Passion and Purpose

Priyadharshni: Was there a long planning period?



First edition – March 2006



Online launch by Dr Y S Rajan

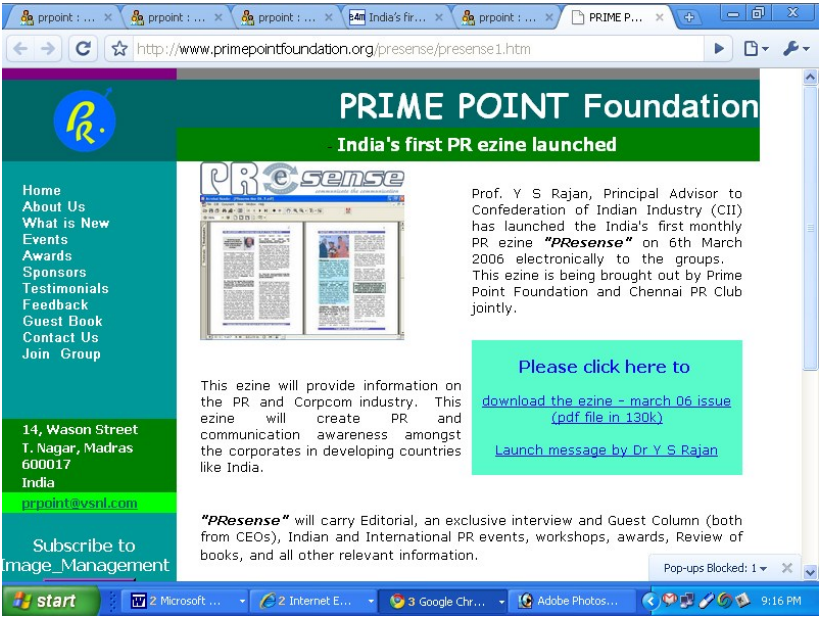
Prime Point Srinivasan: Not at all! I've always believed in "Aaj hona; Abi hona" – it should happen today; it should happen now. We decided to launch in just 15 days, setting 6th March 2006 as our launch date.

Priyadharshni: That's remarkably quick! Did you face any challenges with the inaugural issue?

Prime Point Srinivasan: Indeed. Despite managing large Yahoo groups with many communication professionals, I couldn't secure any CEO interviews for our first issue. Everyone hesitated to give interviews to a yet-to-be-launched tiny eMagazine – they were all looking for established media brands.

I shared my difficulties with Dr. Y.S. Rajan, a close associate of Dr Abdul Kalam and co-author of the book "India 2020" with Dr Abdul Kalam. He not only encouraged me but also readily agreed to give an interview and launch the first edition online. Suresh Kamath, Chairman of Laser

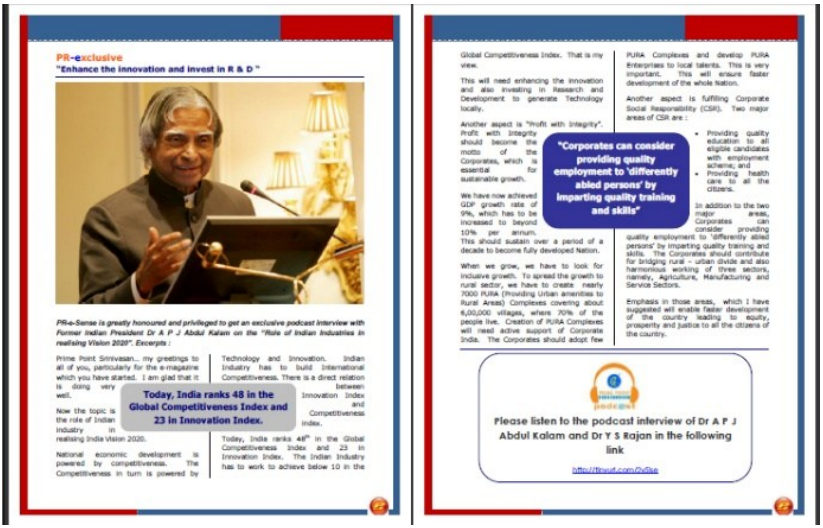
Soft Info Systems Ltd and our well-wisher, also agreed to be interviewed.



Dr. Y.S. Rajan launched the first edition of PreSense online on 6th March 2006. That was our small step towards what would become a remarkable journey.

'Prince' the Cartoon: A Symbol of Wit and Wisdom

Priyadharshni: The cartoon character 'Prince' has become iconic for PreSense readers. How did that come about?



PR-e-exclusive

"Enhance the innovation and invest in R & D"

PR-e-Sense is greatly honoured and privileged to get an exclusive podcast interview with Former Indian President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on the "Role of Indian Industries in realising Vision 2020". Excerpts :

Prime Point Srinivasan... my greetings to all of you, particularly for the e-magazine which you have started. I am glad that it is doing very well.

Now the topic is the role of Indian industry in realising India Vision 2020.

National economic development is powered by competitiveness. The Competitiveness in turn is powered by Technology and Innovation. Indian Industry has to build International Competitiveness. There is a direct relation between Innovation Index and Competitiveness Index.

Today, India ranks 48 in the Global Competitiveness Index and 23 in Innovation Index.

Today, India ranks 48th in the Global Competitiveness Index and 23 in Innovation Index. The Indian Industry has to work to achieve below 10 in the Global Competitiveness Index. That is my view.

This will need enhancing the innovation and also investing in Research and Development to generate Technology locally.

Another aspect is "Profit with Integrity". Profit with Integrity should become the motto of the Corporates, which is essential for sustainable growth.

"Corporates can consider providing quality employment to 'differently abled persons' by imparting quality training and skills"

We have now achieved GDP growth rate of 9%, which has to be increased to beyond 10% per annum. This should sustain over a period of a decade to become fully developed Nation.

When we grow, we have to look for inclusive growth. To spread the growth to rural sector, we have to create nearly 7000 PURA (Providing Urban amenities to Rural Areas) Complexes covering about 6,00,000 villages, where 70% of the people live. Creation of PURA Complexes will need active support of Corporate India. The Corporates should adopt few PURA Complexes and develop PURA Enterprises to local talents. This is very important. This will ensure faster development of the whole Nation.

Another aspect is fulfilling Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Two major areas of CSR are :

- Providing quality education to all eligible candidates with employment scheme; and
- Providing health care to all the citizens.

In addition to the two major areas, Corporates can consider providing quality employment to 'differently abled persons' by imparting quality training and skills. The Corporates should contribute for bridging rural – urban divide and also harmonious working of three sectors, namely, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Service Sectors.

Emphasis in those areas, which I have suggested will enable faster development of the country leading to equity, prosperity and justice to all the citizens of the country.

Please listen to the podcast interview of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Dr Y S Rajan in the following link

http://tinyurl.com/2v5ke

Feb 2008 issue with Dr Abdul Kalam exclusive interview – New Layout and New Masthead

Prime Point Srinivasan: Dr Abdul Kalam was one of our regular readers. He gave an exclusive interview for our February 2008 edition, marking our second anniversary, which had 'Change' as its theme. He suggested including cartoons, as he was fond of them himself.

From this edition, we changed the Masthead and the layout of the eMagazine with the help of Tushar, a leading Communication expert from Mumbai and the Editorial team member. This masthead and layout continue till now.

After discussions in our Yahoo group, Triambak Sharma, a well-known cartoonist from Raipur, offered to draw a monthly cartoon featuring a character named 'Prince'. The

first cartoon was launched by Dr Abdul Kalam at Raj Bhavan, Chennai in July 2008. To date, we've published more than 200 Prince cartoons drawn by Triambak. 100th Cartoon was launched at Raipur by Dr Ramon Singh, then Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Wall Street Journal, Internationally renowned media carried one of our cartoons with our permission.

During one cartoon function, Dr Abdul Kalam suggested that all cartoonists should create characters like R.K. Laxman's Common Man and Triambak's Prince. He himself was quite a fan of Prince cartoons.

Digital Milestones Worth Celebrating

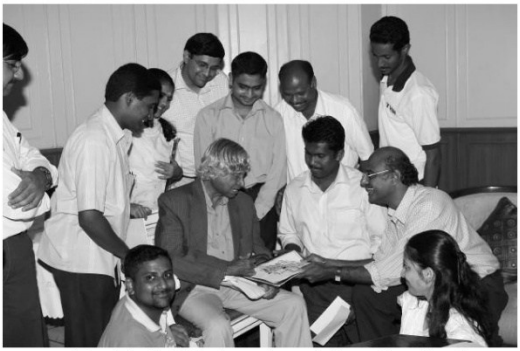
Priyadharshni: Over these two decades, what achievements of PreSense make you particularly proud?

Prime Point Srinivasan: There are several milestones that stand out. We're recognised as India's oldest digital-only eMagazine – we've never had a print edition, which earned us recognition from the India Book of Records.

We were the first eMagazine to integrate podcasts alongside articles way back in 2006. In 2007, we introduced the concept of Guest Editors, with many eminent Indian and international personalities taking up the role.

We also broke new ground in 2008 by becoming the first eMagazine to serve as a Media Partner for international events – starting with the Annual Convention of the

Chartered Institute of Public Relations in London. Until then, only traditional print and TV media would be invited as media partners.



Dr Abdul Kalam lanching the first cartoon with his autograph (24 Jul 08)



Beyond Journalism: Building Impactful Initiatives

Priyadharshni: Beyond publishing the magazine, PreSense has also launched several initiatives. Could you tell us about them?

Prime Point Srinivasan: Yes, PReSense, which was focussing exclusively on communication, converted to general journalism from its 61st Edition. From 61st edition, we renamed it as ***PreSense***, without changing the masthead. The tagline was changed from 'Communicate the communication' to 'Spreading Positive vibrations,' which continues till now. Prime Point Foundation and PreSense started the Sansad Ratna Awards in 2010 to recognise top-performing Parliamentarians, following Dr Abdul Kalam's advice.



Masthead up to 60th edition



Masthead after 61st edition

Our other initiatives include the Digital Journalists Association of India, Next Gen Political Leaders, and Education Loan Task Force. All these initiatives are run by volunteers actively serving society.

We've also compiled articles from PreSense into e-books and printed books, distributed free of charge. Dr Abdul Kalam wrote the foreword for our first compilation after the 100th edition. In toto, we've published 49 e-books, some in print as well. Our 50th book will be released during the Sansad Ratna Awards in May 2025.

A Magazine that Policy Makers Respect

Priyadharshni: How would you describe the impact and influence of PreSense today?

Prime Point Srinivasan: Today, our eMagazine is circulated digitally and read by intellectuals and policymakers. People in positions of power keenly follow our editorials and cover stories. We've always maintained a neutral stance, analysing all aspects of an issue thoroughly.

We are proud that PreSense is the only surviving digital-only magazine in India that has never had a print version. What's more, we have operated all these years on a voluntary basis—never carrying a single advertisement.

Honoured for Positive Journalism

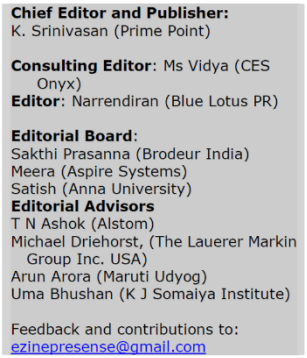
It is gratifying to note that our efforts have been recognised by many prestigious national organisations. PreSense received the Narada Award from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)—their first award in the Digital Journalism category. This is a great honour. Similarly, the globally respected Brahma Kumaris organisation honoured us with the Golden Triangle Award, again the first of its kind for digital journalism.

We've also been recognised by the Association of Business Communicators of India and the Public Relations Council of India, in appreciation of our sustained efforts in promoting positive journalism. These honours are deeply encouraging.

Values That Never Wavered

Priyadharshni: What principles have guided PreSense through these two decades?

Prime Point Srinivasan: We've always believed in providing the highest quality content while adhering to ethical standards. Many eminent people have associated with this eMagazine on our editorial board. For the past 20 years, it has been run as a voluntary service committed to


Chief Editor and Publisher:
K. Srinivasan (Prime Point)

Consulting Editor: Ms Vidya (CES Onyx)
Editor: Narrendiran (Blue Lotus PR)

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Uma Bhushan (K J Somaiya Institute)

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ezinepresense@gmail.com

First Editorial Board March 2006

ethical journalism. We've never solicited advertisements.

A Legacy Rooted in Ethics, Vision, and Service

Priyadharshni: As we celebrate this momentous milestone, who would you like to acknowledge for their contributions?

Prime Point Srinivasan: I'm deeply grateful to Susan Koshy, Former Editor-in-Chief; V Rajendran, Former Editor; Ramesh Sundaram, present Joint Managing Editor; C Badri, present Editor-in-Chief; and yourself, Priyadharshni Rahul, our present Editor, for your valuable contributions in maintaining the high quality of our editions. I also acknowledge Triambak Sharma, well-known Indian cartoonist for his Prince cartoons. Dr Kalam himself was a great fan of Triambak's cartoons.

And finally, I always say that all this has been possible only because of the Divine Blessings of Lord Sri Krishna, who provides the strength and energy to continue our journey in positive journalism.

Priyadharshni: After 217 editions and counting, what's next for PreSense?

Prime Point Srinivasan: We will continue to maintain our standards of quality and ethics in the coming years. When I look back, I realise how far we've come from those days of 'world wide wait' to now having published 217 editions and 49 eBooks. It is an epic journey indeed. When I started this eMagazine in March 2006, nobody was willing to give

their interview to this tiny magazine. Later, we carried exclusive interviews from Dr Abdul Kalam, Jimmy Wales (Founder of Wikipedia), Vinton Cerf (Father of Modern Internet), and many national and international celebrities. I firmly believe that passion and persistence can indeed turn visions into reality. The digital landscape has evolved dramatically, but our commitment to positive, ethical journalism remains unwavering.

As PreSense celebrates this significant milestone, it stands as a testimony to perseverance, visionary thinking, and adaptability in the digital age. From a time when few believed in the power of online media to become a respected voice among policymakers, the PreSense journey embodies the transformative potential of digital communication when guided by ethical principles and unwavering dedication.

(Published in the March 2025 edition of PreSense)

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The Leadership Legacy: India's Challenges

(Unveiling India's leadership odyssey, this story bridges ancient wisdom and modern challenges to groom visionary leaders shaping tomorrow)

As India positions itself to lead global economic growth, there is an urgent need to develop strong leaders in both corporate and political spheres. Leadership has always been a decisive factor in determining the success of nations and organisations. The journey of grooming leaders, from ancient times to the modern era, offers invaluable lessons for today. In this Cover Story, we explore India's ancient leadership development traditions, the imperatives of modern leadership, the challenges in identifying potential leaders, and the crucial role of mentorship in building tomorrow's leaders.

Ancient India's Leadership Legacy

Ancient India offers a treasure trove of insights into leadership development. The Gurukul system is an unparalleled education model in which students lived with their mentors and underwent comprehensive training in diverse areas such as statecraft, philosophy, ethics, and warfare. This form of learning transcended academics, focusing on character building and practical knowledge, equipping students to lead with wisdom and integrity.

The relationship between Chanakya and Chandragupta Maurya exemplifies ancient India's approach to leadership grooming. Under Chanakya's guidance, Chandragupta mastered the intricacies of governance, military strategy and diplomacy, eventually establishing one of India's greatest empires—the Mauryan Empire. The Ramayana and Mahabharata and Chanakya's Arthashastra serve as comprehensive treatises on governance, ethics and leadership, offering frameworks that resonate even in today's complex world.

Leadership in the Digital Age

The demands on modern leaders have grown exponentially. Corporate and political entities require leaders who can navigate rapid technological advancements, inspire diverse teams and make data-driven decisions with foresight. In this era of volatility and complexity, leadership transcends mere authority; it demands adaptability, empathy and innovation.

In the corporate world, leadership succession planning has become critical. Organisations risk chaos during transitions without proper grooming, jeopardising stability and growth. Several Indian companies have faced challenges due to inadequate succession planning, resulting in periods of uncertainty and operational inefficiency. Similarly, political parties that fail to groom leaders often face instability, as evidenced by struggles in leadership transitions that lead to policy paralysis and governance vacuums.

The absence of leadership grooming in the modern age can lead to stagnation. Today's leaders must possess domain expertise, a firm grasp of technology, emotional intelligence, and a vision for the future. The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, big data and digital platforms demands continuous learning and adaptation. The inability to keep pace with these changes can render even the most seasoned leaders obsolete.

The Art of Identifying Future Leaders

Identifying potential leaders is a nuanced and multifaceted process. While many aspire to don leadership roles, not all possess the required skills, attitude, or mindset. Effective leaders often exhibit qualities such as resilience, empathy, vision, and the ability to inspire others. However, spotting these traits requires a structured and discerning approach.



In the corporate sector, organisations like Infosys, TCS, Wipro and ICICI employ modern techniques such as leadership assessments, 360-degree feedback and mentorship programmes to identify high-potential individuals. These processes help uncover both technical competencies and essential soft skills.

In politics, leadership identification often begins at the grass-roots level, where individuals demonstrate their ability to connect with people and address their concerns. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, L.K. Advani, and K. Kamaraj successfully identified and groomed potential leaders for national roles. Narendra Modi's journey from modest beginnings to becoming India's transformative Prime Minister underscores the importance of early recognition and nurturing leadership potential.

As Saint Thiruvalluvar wrote 2,000 years ago in Thirukkural:

"இதனை இதனால் இவன்முடிக்கும் என்றாய்ந்து
அதனை அவன்கண் விடல்."

(Entrust the task to the person after carefully evaluating how they would accomplish it and with what methods.)

The Mentor's Dilemma

Mentors' reluctance to take on this crucial role is a significant barrier to leadership grooming. This hesitation often stems from fears of losing power, authority or influence. Some mentors worry that their protégés might

surpass them, disrupting the established hierarchy or diminishing their standing. This mindset, though pervasive, ultimately hinders the development of future leaders.

This reluctance contrasts sharply with the approach of legendary mentors like JRD Tata, who exemplified selflessness in leadership grooming. JRD mentored Ratan Tata and prepared him to take over the reins of the Tata Group. Despite initial scepticism from stakeholders, Ratan Tata's leadership ushered in an era of unprecedented growth and global recognition for the conglomerate. Similarly, Narayana Murthy mentored corporate leaders like Nandan Nilekani, while in politics, leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Kamaraj and Advani created numerous national leaders.

Bridging Generational Divides

The process of grooming leaders faces unique challenges in today's rapidly evolving environment. The generational divide presents a significant hurdle. Younger generations, including millennials and Gen Z, bring fresh perspectives, technological prowess and a strong sense of purpose to leadership roles. However, they may lack the patience or long-term vision required for sustained leadership. Conversely, older mentors may struggle to connect with the values and expectations of younger mentees, creating a disconnect that impedes effective mentoring.

The Power of Reverse Mentoring



Overcoming these challenges requires a collaborative and adaptive approach. Modern organisations like Infosys, TCS and Wipro have embraced reverse mentoring, where younger employees provide insights into technological trends and innovations. This two-way exchange fosters mutual learning and helps bridge generational and technological divides.

Interestingly, reverse mentoring, though considered a modern management concept, has roots in ancient India. At South India's Swamimalai temple, one can find a unique representation of Lord Shiva learning from his son Lord Karthikeya in a sitting posture with reverence — a powerful symbol of our ancestors' understanding of bidirectional learning thousands of years ago.

The Katha Upanishad tells the story of Nachiketa, a young boy who, through his unwavering pursuit of truth, becomes a teacher to his own father. This story is also being shown in the light and sound show at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Charting the Path Forward

Building strong leaders requires a comprehensive strategy involving mentors, mentees, organisations and institutions.

Mentors must approach leadership grooming with a growth mindset, viewing it as an opportunity to contribute to a lasting legacy. They need to prioritise open communication, build trust and remain committed to their own continuous learning.

Mentees (aspiring young leaders) must demonstrate a willingness to learn, accept constructive feedback, and persevere through challenges. Leadership development is not a one-time effort but a continuous journey requiring dedication and adaptability. Aspiring leaders must actively seek mentorship opportunities, cultivate relationships, and remain open to diverse perspectives while learning from their mentors' wisdom and experience.

Organisations and political entities play a pivotal role in fostering leadership. They must invest in structured succession planning programmes, leadership development workshops, and inclusive policies that encourage diverse leadership pipelines. By creating an ecosystem that values and prioritises leadership grooming, organisations and institutions can ensure sustainable growth and resilience.

Conclusion

India's rich history and contemporary examples demonstrate that grooming leaders is not merely a choice but an imperative. The wisdom of ancient practices, combined with modern tools and methodologies, provides a roadmap for building a robust pipeline of leaders capable of steering corporates and politics towards a brighter future.

By embracing mentorship, addressing challenges and fostering a culture of continuous development, we can ensure that the next generation of leaders is equipped to navigate the complexities of our rapidly changing world.`

(Published in the Dec 2024 edition of PreSense)

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Secularism or Vote Bank Politics? India's Dilemma

(The Editorial discusses the misinterpretation of secularism in India, leading to political appeasement of minorities and divisive policies.)



In recent years, the topic of secularism in India has become a frequent subject of public discourse. Many now believe that the concept of secularism is often misinterpreted to appease minorities for vote-bank politics, while Hinduism is depicted in a negative light, hurting the sentiments of the majority.

A recent statement by a Tamil Nadu Minister calling for the 'eradication of Sanatana Dharma like mosquitoes' sparked a nationwide debate and led to legal challenges. There have been numerous instances where leaders who claim to be 'secularists' mock Hindu practices and mantras while addressing minority communities. Though minority community leaders do not object to such comments, many

feel uncomfortable and embarrassed by these incidents. These so-called ‘secular’ leaders enthusiastically extend greetings to festivals celebrated by minority communities. However, it is unfortunate that they often neglect to do the same for the festivals celebrated by majority Hindu community.

In the early 1990s, Kashmiri Pandits were driven out of their homes, becoming refugees in neighbouring States within their own country. Unfortunately, political parties that claim to be "secular" did not raise their voices against this brutal incident, including the killings of Pandits. These parties often remain silent when the majority community is under attack, ostensibly to protect "secularism." There have been several such instances where those parties that profess secularism turn a blind eye to violence against the majority community.

In 1986, under Rajiv Gandhi's regime, the Supreme Court's judgment in the Shah Bano case was nullified to appease the minority community. This action led to further complications and unrest in the country, including the resurgence of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Often, in the name of secularism, these political groups provoke minority communities by spreading false information, creating divisions among people. The recent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) were largely based on false fears instigated by these

groups, even though the CAA has nothing to do with Indian minorities.

While Dr B.R. Ambedkar strongly opposed and did not support Article 370, secular parties continued to defend it, which denied reservations to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Similarly, Dr. Ambedkar advocated for implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Yet, these parties now oppose the UCC, which could help bring legal uniformity among the people. Ironically, all of them claim to be followers of Dr. Ambedkar.

These actions do not reflect true secularism; instead, they create divisions between Hindus and minorities, making Hindus feel alienated. This is far from the vision India's founders had for the nation.

Dr Ambedkar's Views on Secularism

Dr Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution, firmly believed in the principle of secularism, not as a form of atheism, but as the state's religious neutrality. His goal was to ensure that no religion dominated or influenced the functioning of the state, particularly given India's history of caste-based oppression and religious conflict. In his view, secularism meant that the state would neither favour any religion nor interfere in religious practices, as long as these practices did not violate public morality or infringe upon individual rights.

Despite clearly understanding secularism, Dr Ambedkar did not push for including the word "secularism" in the Constitution's Preamble. One of the main reasons for this was his belief that the principles of secularism were already embedded within the Constitution, especially in the provisions related to fundamental rights and non-discrimination on the grounds of religion. He believed that the Constitution inherently guaranteed a secular framework without the need to use the term explicitly.

Dr Ambedkar once said, “What should be the state's policy? The policy of the state should be neutral in the matter of religion. The state should not impose any particular religion upon the rest of the people. This is the essence of secularism.”

Dr. Ambedkar believed that secularism was sufficiently implicit in the constitutional framework, and there was no need to declare it overtly in the Preamble. He was wary that narrowly defining secularism or making it a constitutional slogan could invite unnecessary controversy or conflicts over its interpretation. Furthermore, by not explicitly including secularism in the Preamble, he avoided reducing it to a political tool for exploitation by parties or groups.

Scholar Christophe Jaffrelot, a noted commentator on Ambedkar's ideology, argues: "Ambedkar preferred a substantive secularism based on equality before the law and the non-interference of the state

in religious matters over a declaratory secularism that might lead to political posturing."

Constitutional Provisions

Ambedkar ensured that Articles 25 to 28, under the chapter on Fundamental Rights, explicitly guaranteed freedom of religion and equality before the law, irrespective of religious identity.

- **Article 29** protects the rights of citizens to preserve their distinct language, script, or culture.
- **Article 30** gives minorities the right to establish and administer their own educational institutions.
- **Article 25** provides religious freedom to all, though in practice, it has sometimes been interpreted in ways that afford certain privileges to minorities, such as personal laws for Muslims and Christians.

These provisions are inherently secular. Dr. Ambedkar believed the Constitution already protected secular values by allowing individuals to practice their religion freely while ensuring the state's neutrality.

Adding ‘Secular’ to the Preamble

During the Emergency in 1976, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi included the word “secular” in the Preamble of the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment. After this

amendment, some argue that secularism began to be misinterpreted to appease minorities for vote-bank politics. However, India has practised secularism since ancient times, with a history of respecting different faiths.

Ancient India's Secular Ethos

A well-known mantra in Hindu rituals is "Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu" (Let all people be prosperous). The *Rig Veda* states, "Let noble thoughts come from everywhere," and also quotes "Sarva Dharma Sama Bhava" (treat all faiths equally). Ancient Indian rulers supported Christianity and Islam when they arrived in India, allowing them to preach their beliefs. Buddhism and Jainism originated in India, reflecting a longstanding tradition of religious tolerance. The distortions we see today began only after the invasions of the British and Mughals. Secularism and tolerance are part of the very fabric of Indian society.

Challenges in the Present Day

Today, it has become fashionable for political parties to claim they are 'secular' while appeasing minorities and ridiculing the rituals of the majority community. Sadly, even knowledgeable and educated minority leaders do not object to this trend.

While leaders of all communities, including Hindus, greet minority communities during their festivals, Hindus rarely receive reciprocal greetings for their own festivals. Moreover, there are allegations that minority institutions

enjoy more privileges than those of the majority community in areas such as education, recruitment, and the teaching of religious texts. These privileges are not extended to institutions run by the majority.

While the Government manages Hindu religious institutions like temples, they allow the religious institutions of minorities to be run by their own leaders. While the students of minority communities get scholarships and interest subsidies, their Hindu counterparts do not get any such support. Such discriminations happen in the name of protecting 'secularism', though the Constitution prohibits discrimination.

As a result, many feel that in India, under the guise of secularism, the majority population is being treated as second-class citizens, even though the Constitution guarantees equal rights without discrimination to all.

Over the years, this has led to growing resentment among the majority population, further fuelling division. Political parties exploit this situation in the name of secularism to advance their vote-bank politics.

The Way Forward

All political parties must cease using the secularism card to appease minorities while taking an anti-Hindu stance. They must learn to treat all citizens equally, without discrimination. Media and Civil society, including leaders from both the Hindu and minority communities, cannot

remain silent spectators to these trends. Minority community leaders should condemn the derogatory statements made about Hinduism by political leaders during their meetings. They should recognise that such leaders are disrupting communal harmony.

In the name of Secularism, moral instruction classes have been dispensed with at the School Level. A recent study reveals that this lack of moral instruction is generating bad habits and also promoting juvenile offenders.

As desired by Dr Ambedkar, the Uniform Civil Code should be implemented in consultation with all religious groups. Political parties should not mislead minority communities with false information for their political gains.

India, that is, Bharat, should continue to be a secular nation as it was in ancient times, with mutual respect for all faiths.

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः, सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः। सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु, मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग्भवेत्॥

May all be happy; May all be free from illness; May all see what is auspicious; May no one suffer in any way; Om, Shanthi, Shanthi, Shanthi.

Brihadaranyaka Upanishad (1.4.14)

(Published in the Sep 2024 edition of PreSense)

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Echoes of Humility: Hanuman's Lessons for Modern-Day Leaders

(This article explores Hanuman's humble yet effective communication style in ancient scriptures, drawing lessons for modern leadership, governance, and diplomacy.)

India's ancient scriptures, including the Vedas, Ithihasas, and Puranas, are not mere spiritual documents but also great textbooks for governance, management, and communication techniques. Rarely do we study in depth the relevance of these techniques in modern-day governance.

While we worship Hanuman and celebrate him as the greatest devotee of Lord Rama, we should also recognise him as the greatest communicator with humility. His strength lays in his humility combined with communication expertise. This helped him build trust and function as a diplomat. In this article, we will briefly study how he communicated when he met Lord Rama, Sita Mata, and Ravan for the first time in different environments. We will also discuss the relevance to modern-day governance.



(Hanuman met Rama disguised as Brahmin. Picture drawn by ChatGPT as described in Valmiki Ramayana)

Hanuman Meeting Lord Ram

When Rama and Lakshman were roaming in Kishkinda forests in search of the kidnapped Sita, Hanuman met Rama in disguise as a Brahmin on Sugriva's instructions. Since this was their first meeting, Hanuman wanted to learn more about Rama and Lakshman. His opening words demonstrated astute diplomacy:

"कौ युवां वृषभस्कन्धौ महाबाहू महाबलौ।

कथं प्राप्ताविमं देशं दुर्गं गिरिवनायुतम्॥"

(Kishkindha Kanda, Sarga 3, Shloka 16)

Translation: "Who are you two with shoulders like bulls, mighty-armed and greatly strong? How have you reached this impenetrable region, filled with mountains and forests?"

This opening gambit showcased Hanuman's skill in gathering information while maintaining a respectful tone. He complimented their appearance while subtly questioning their presence, demonstrating tact and intelligence. Hanuman gradually revealed his true identity and purpose as the conversation unfolded, building trust through measured and insightful responses. During the conversation, Hanuman gathered information about Rama and Lakshman and the purpose of their visit and also conveying a message from Sugriva. In this process,

Hanuman exhibited a high level of communication skills with diplomacy.

After this conversation, Rama was highly impressed with Hanuman's eloquence and communication skills and praised him in Lakshman's presence.

Rama specifically praises Hanuman in Kishkindha Kanda, Sarga 4, Slokas 33-36. Here, Rama comments on Hanuman's speech, noting its impeccable clarity, brevity, and fluency.

Rama appreciated his brevity, saying, "Neither too short nor too long, neither too elaborate nor too concise has your speech been; no important point has been omitted by you."

Rama further praised, "Your speech is apt and pleasing, clear and well-connected, faultless, letter-perfect, knowledgeable of meanings, and free from envy. What you have not expressed and what you have expressed are both proper." Rama also appreciates Hanuman’s voice modulation and his use of appropriate words. Rama describes the conversation as pleasant like music.

This praise from Rama, coming immediately after their first interaction, set the tone for Hanuman's pivotal role in the epic's events.

First Meeting with Sita

Hanuman's encounter with Sita in Ravana's Ashoka grove garden is a masterclass in empathetic communication. Aware of Sita's vulnerable state, he approached her with utmost caution and respect. First, he sang the glory of Rama and narrated the incidents that happened in the forest in a mild voice, sitting on the tree above Sita. Sita's attention was drawn, but she suspected that this vanara might be Ravana's attempt to deceive her. The shrewd Hanuman started his conversation with Sita to create trust. Hanuman shared details of private conversations between Rama and Sita, as recounted by Rama, to build trust. He presented the ring worn by Rama as a token of identity:

"दूतोऽहं कोसलेन्द्रस्य रामस्याक्लिष्टकर्मणः।

रामनामाङ्कितं चेदं पश्य देवि महीयकम्॥"

(Sundara Kanda, Sarga 35, Shloka 2-3)

Translation: "O noble lady, I am a messenger of Rama, the Lord of Kosala, whose deeds are unblemished. Behold, O Goddess, this signet ring marked with Rama's name."

Hanuman's words were carefully chosen to provide immediate comfort and establish trust. He presented Rama's signet ring as proof of his identity, skillfully using non-verbal communication to support his verbal claims. His

gentle approach and gradual revelation of information demonstrated deep emotional intelligence and situational awareness.

After Hanuman's return from Lanka, he narrated his experiences in Lanka and his conversation with Sita to Rama. Rama immediately appreciated him effectively:

"न वायुः न अन्तकः न च इन्द्रः न वरुणः न च यमः।

त्वया तुल्यं हि पश्यामि वानर त्वं हि दुर्जयः॥"

(Yuddha Kanda, Sarga 1, Shloka 2-3)

Translation: "Neither Wind (Vayu), nor Death (Antaka), nor Indra, nor Varuna, nor Yama do I see as equal to you, O Vanara. Indeed, you are invincible."

This praise highlighted Hanuman's physical prowess and intellectual and communicative abilities. Rama recognised that Hanuman's success in his mission was as much due to his diplomatic skills as his strength and courage.

Confronting Ravana

Hanuman's encounter with Ravana showcased his ability to adapt his communication style to different audiences. When brought before the demon king, Hanuman spoke with confidence and diplomacy:

"दूतोऽहं कोसलेन्द्रस्य रामस्य विदितात्मनः।

श्रूयतां चैव वचनं मम पथ्यमिदं प्रभो॥"

(Sundara Kanda, Sarga 51, Shloka 11-12)

Translation: "I am an envoy of Rama, the self-controlled Lord of Kosala. O master, listen to my words, for they are meant for your benefit."

Even while delivering a stern message, Hanuman maintained decorum, addressing Ravana with respect, befitting his status as a king. This demonstrated Hanuman's ability to balance assertiveness with diplomacy, a crucial negotiation and conflict resolution skill.

Views of Commentators

Govindaraja, a 12th-century commentator on the Ramayana, noted: "Hanuman's humility is not false modesty, but a genuine recognition of his role as a servant of the divine. This makes his words all the more powerful and trustworthy."

Kamban, in his Tamil version of the Ramayana, portrayed Hanuman as a master of language and diplomacy. In his rendition of Hanuman's meeting with Sita, he wrote (translated from Tamil):

"His words were like nectar to her ears, soothing her grief and dispelling her fears. With eloquence divine and rare, He spoke of Rama's love and care."

Tulsidas, in his Ramcharitmanas, frequently praised Hanuman's communication skills. When describing Hanuman's meeting with Rama, he wrote:

"बोलत बचन नीति अति पावन।

मधुर मनोहर अति सुखदावन॥"

Translation: "He spoke words of supreme and pure wisdom, Sweet, charming, and extremely delightful."

These commentators highlighted various aspects of Hanuman's communication expertise, including his mastery of language, his ability to adapt his style to different audiences, the soothing and persuasive quality of his speech, and his capacity to express profound ideas in simple terms.

Lessons for Modern Governance, Politics and Leadership

Many modern-day leaders and aspirants in politics and corporations lack communication skills. They should

emulate the following qualities from Hanuman's communication style:

1. Humility: Humility combined with communication, despite Hanuman's enormous strength, ability, and knowledge.
2. Adaptability: Adapting messages to deliver to different audiences.
3. Emotional Intelligence: Hanuman's interactions are marked by a keen awareness of others' emotional states. He knows when to be forceful and when to be gentle.
4. Balancing Confidence and Humility: Hanuman demonstrates that one can be both confident in one's abilities and humble in one's demeanour.
5. Clear and Purposeful Communication: Every word Hanuman speaks serves a purpose. In an era of information overload, the ability to communicate clearly using appropriate words and purposefully is more important than ever.
6. Building Trust: Through his words and actions, Hanuman quickly establishes trust with those he encounters. In an era of increasing political and corporate cynicism, the ability to build genuine trust is invaluable.
7. Diplomacy in Adversity: Hanuman's interaction with Ravana demonstrates how to maintain diplomacy even in hostile situations. This skill is crucial in today's often polarised political environment and competitive business world.

In an era of rapid communication and social media, where words can be amplified and misconstrued easily, Hanuman's thoughtful, measured approach is a valuable model.

In a political or corporate landscape, leaders can approach communication with Hanuman's blend of clarity, empathy, and purpose. Such an approach could help bridge ideological divides, foster more productive dialogue, and ultimately lead to more effective governance and business practices.

Moreover, Hanuman's example reminds us that true communication is not just about speaking but also about listening and observing. His success in his mission was as much due to his ability to gather and interpret information as it was to his skill in conveying messages

(Published in the June 2024 edition of PreSense)

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A New Dawn for Justice: India Overhauls Its Colonial-Era Criminal Law

(On July 1, 2024, India will implement transformative laws, modernising criminal justice, replacing outdated statutes, and enhancing judicial efficiency and fairness. The author is also an advocate in the Supreme Court of India)

(This article, authored by Priyadharshni Rahul, was published in one of the leading English Newspapers DT Next on June 24, 2024, on Page 2)

December 2023 etched itself into the annals of India's legal history, marking a pivotal moment as the nation bid farewell to its colonial-era criminal laws.

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA) of 1872 – pillars of the Indian criminal justice system for over a century – were replaced by three new laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita (BNSS), and the Bhartiya Sakshi Adhiniyam (BSA).

This monumental shift wasn’t a sudden decision but the culmination of a process that began in May 2020. The Centre constituted a Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law, tasked with recommending updates to the British-era statutes. The committee's work bore fruit in August 2023 when the bills were introduced during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The Winter Session of the same year saw their passage, followed swiftly by the President's assent, paving the way for a new chapter in Indian criminal law.

Criticisms

The journey to these new laws has been far from smooth, sparking intense debates across political, legal, and human rights circles. The Sanskritised names of the new codes drew attention, but it was the expanded powers granted to investigating agencies that ignited the most heated discussions.

Critics argue that the changes, while significant, could have been achieved through amendments to the existing laws rather than creating entirely new codes.

Several provisions have come under particularly intense scrutiny:

- The anti-national law, which some fear, could be used to stifle dissent

- Trial in absentia, allowing courts to proceed with trials even when the accused is not present

- Extended police custody periods from 60 to 90 days, where experts opine to be taking us back to colonial era or even worse

- Limitations of third-party intervention in mercy petition applications, potentially overseeing the ignorance of legal illiteracy and lack of awareness of appropriate remedies

Section 356 of the BNS permits trials to proceed if the offender is proclaimed an absconder evading trial with no immediate prospect of arrest. Critics argue that this violates principles of natural justice, potentially leading to unfair convictions.

However, supporters contend that it's necessary to address the massive backlog of pending criminal cases that has long plagued the Indian judicial system. This will also challenge those offenders who swiftly take the international route and remain clandestine, leading to a large number of cases that don't see the light of justice.

Supporters' perspective

Supporters of the new laws have endorsed them as progressive, arguing that while past laws focused on punishment, the new laws emphasise justice.

The Parliament has passed many reformative, unique, and robust laws. Some of the key features are:

- Enhanced penalties for minor rape up till death sentences or life imprisonment for convicted offenders

- A strong stance against mob lynching and anti-nationalism, addressing growing concerns about vigilante justice

- A clear and specific definition of terrorism, demonstrating zero tolerance for any forms of insurgencies and providing law enforcement agencies with scope and guidelines

- Time-bound dispositions, including a maximum period of 45-day limit for pronouncing reserved judgments to reduce delays in the justice system

- Mandatory videography of criminal searches and seizures, increasing transparency and reducing the potential for political interference or evidence tampering

- Acceptance of digital evidence and technology in legal proceedings

- A 7-day timeline for delivering medical reports of rape victims to investigating officers

- Requirement of forensic experts at crime scenes for offenses carrying sentences exceeding 7 years

- Introducing community service as a punishment to petty crimes

Embracing tech, AI

Digital and sophisticated crime, combined with globally connected criminal networks, has created complexity in crime patterns that require equally sophisticated investigative techniques.

Cybercrime, in particular, has emerged as a significant challenge. Data theft has become a daunting task for law enforcement, with privacy compromised on a global scale. India's success in mastering the digital economy should embolden its aspirations for a progressive, digitalised legal system as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of virtual modes in legal proceedings, and the new laws capitalise on this shift. The new laws promote digital recording throughout the criminal justice process – from the filing of FIRs to the final judgments. This digital transformation will promise transparency and accountability.

The new law directs digital recording right from the inception of criminal investigation – that is FIR till the judgement and disposal of the case. Not to forget that virtual arguments have created vast scope for lawyers to pursue their practice and present their legal acumen from any part of this country. This has encouraged many lawyers from the remotest spot in the country to confidently argue in various high courts and Supreme Court without any deterrence of distance.

The Supreme Court is currently developing a virtual court model that will convert speech to text, significantly reducing the time spent recording evidence. Additionally, plans are underway for an app that will keep all stakeholders of a criminal case updated on judicial proceedings, facilitating better communication and coordination.

In the opinion of the honourable Chief Justice of India, AI algorithms will hasten investigation, and help break

complex evidence to resolve intricate cases at a fast pace. They may even be a likelihood to even predict crimes, if the technology is used with its ethical boundaries and understanding its limitations.

Predictive policing is another aspect that global policing agencies are analysing to forecast criminal activities with AI analytics. So, when the world is running at an unimaginable pace, the requirement for new laws and new thoughts is mandatory.

Addressing scepticism

Some critics argue that the wholesale replacement of long-standing laws was unnecessary, suggesting that amendments would have sufficed. They question whether the marginal changes in the law justifies creating entirely new codes with new titles.

However, supporters of the new laws counter the argument that the laws have evolved since 1793, and a comprehensive overhaul was long overdue. They argue that the current changes aren't about reinventing the wheel but rather about creating a more efficient and responsive legal framework.

The introduction of these new criminal laws represents a significant step in India's legal evolution. While concerns

and criticisms persist, the potential for a more efficient, technologically advanced, and justice-oriented system is clear.

The success of these new laws will depend not only on their content but also on how effectively they are implemented and how well the legal system as a whole adapts to this new paradigm. Ongoing dialogue between lawmakers, legal professionals, and citizens will be crucial to ensure that the new system truly serves the cause of justice in a modern, digital age.

Despite such progressive reforms, if the question remains whether these new laws were a necessity, remind yourself law is change and change is law to manifest dominance incessantly.

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An Article featuring Priyadharshni Rahul published in Indian Express on March 25, 2024



https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/her-wedding-called-off-after-dowry-demands-she-studied-law-and-became-a-supreme-court-lawyer-to-ensure-justice-for-women-9231406/

Her wedding called off after dowry demands, she studied law and became a Supreme Court lawyer to ensure justice for women

Priyadharshni Rahul refused to let her own fight against dowry demand define her identity. She established an NGO to train political aspirants across parties.

By: Express News Service

Pune | Updated: March 25, 2024 09:28 IST

In the process, Priyadharshni started studying law and pursued the case even in the apex court.

Priyadharshni Rahul, 37, has had a challenging journey from litigant to Supreme Court lawyer. At the age of 24, her marriage to a government officer was called off due to unreasonable demands for dowry, and this experience motivated her to fight more for women's rights.

"That day in 2011 shook my self-esteem and trust. Everything had been fixed. My family could not afford to meet their unreasonable dowry demands and we were all shattered," she recalls.

Her father had retired from government service at the time, and her mother was a homemaker. The groom's exorbitant dowry demands were a bolt from the blue. As the marriage was called off, societal embarrassment for the family followed.

Priyadharshni wondered why her family felt ashamed even though they were not at fault. She remembers being pressured to keep silent and forget the incident instead of fighting a legal battle.

The matter would have ended there as an unpleasant episode in this political science graduate's life. However, refusing to be subjected to such humiliation even before the mutually agreed marriage could take place, something

within this young girl snapped, and she approached the Madras High Court for justice.

In the process, Priyadharshni started studying law and pursued the case even in the apex court. “However, I have never played the victim card. But you have to decide what your self-respect is, not the society,” says Priyadharshni, who reasoned why she was so committed to fighting against dowry for 14 years.

The matter was settled last year with the intervention of the Supreme Court. She also volunteered to donate the amount of compensation of Rs 11 lakh to the Supreme Court Advocates Welfare Fund.

“I did not take a penny of the compensation amount but donated it to the Supreme Court Court Bar Association for the needy litigants, like whom I once was,” she says.

“All I thought was no other person should have the ease of cheating, abusing and torturing women under the pretext of dowry. The biggest challenge is understanding her requirements, pretending to the times,” adds Priyadarshi, who now lives in Delhi and visits Pune regularly to provide legal assistance to organisations, corporations, and politicians.

In 2015, she tied the knot with a lawyer who had completed his education at the prestigious Symbiosis Law School in Pune. Her husband proved to be her strong pillar of support,

standing by her side and providing her with immense encouragement during her times of struggle.

After settling the matter, Priyadharshni refused to let it define her identity. She would often remind herself to strive for success rather than be known solely as a dowry survivor.

She started volunteering in various programmes, an important one being the Sansad Ratna apolitical award given to the best-performing parliamentarians initiated by Dr Abdul Kalam in 2009.

In 2023, Priyadharshni became the first woman chairperson of the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee. She also established Next Gen Political Leaders, an NGO to train political aspirants across parties.

“The aim,” she says, “is to motivate youngsters to join politics.” She continues to take up cases of dowry demands and fight them out in the courts, helping every dowry victim regain her dignity and confidence, just as she did.

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Empowering Indian Women: Parliament Passes Landmark Women's Reservation Bill - Reserving One-Third of Seats for Women



Indian Parliament made history during the Special Session held in September 2023 in the new building named 'Sansad Bhavan' by passing the 128th Constitution Amendment Bill that provides one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and other State Assemblies. In the historic event, Lok Sabha passed the Bill on 20th September 2023 with 454 members voting in favour and 2 against. The Rajya Sabha on 21st September 2023 passed the Bill with 214 voting in favour and none against.

It is historic in the sense that the Constitutional Amendment could be passed in both Houses of Parliament after 27 years. Though the Bill was introduced in 1996 for the first time, this could not be passed due to differences of views among the parties. The Bill was introduced several times without getting passed. Modi Government made efforts to bring consensus among the parties to get the Bill passed in both Houses. This being a Constitutional Amendment Bill, it needs to be ratified by 50 per cent of the State Assemblies. All the parties have agreed to this Bill, it will get ratified by the State Assemblies too within two or three months. After the assent by the President, the Bill will become effective.

Presently, the current Lok Sabha has only 14 per cent of the women members. The State Assemblies in India account for less than 10 per cent of the women members. Now this amendment enables one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies to be reserved for women. This includes the reserved constituencies for SCs and STs.

The one-third women reservation will come into effect only for the 2029 General elections because as per Article 82 of the Indian Constitution, the Census has to be completed, before Delimitation Commission is appointed. The Delimitation Commission is to be headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge. The Delimitation Commission will

go through the Census data and mark the constituencies for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, including the reserved ones.



Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introducing the historic bill in the Lok Sabha

The Census was not held in 2021 due to corona pandemic and is likely to start only after the General Elections in 2024. It may take even two years. The Delimitation Commission will be appointed for marking the new constituencies by 2026 and it may take another two years. The Election Commission does not have any authority to mark the

constituencies. They can conduct only elections. The procedures are enshrined in Article 82 of the Indian Constitution. In view of this, the new reservation quota for women can come into force only from 2029, provided nobody challenges the amendment in the Supreme Court.

Some of the political parties allege that the ruling party made this amendment in a hurry when there was no urgency. In our view, this Bill has been pending for more than 27 years for various political reasons. PreSense appreciates the Modi Government for bringing this legislation now when there is a consensus among the political parties and getting it passed. This Bill is long overdue. We may not know what will happen in the future with ever-changing political views. The Parliament has passed this amendment and hence there would be pressure on the new Government to start the census and form the Delimitation Commission for implementing this amendment.

Since this eMagazine PreSense has been honouring the top performing Parliamentarians with Sansad Ratna Awards since 2009, we have observed that women Parliamentarians, though in small numbers, perform better with high-quality participation. It may be noted that both in the 16th and 17th Lok Sabha, Supriya Sule (NCP, Maharashtra) is maintaining the No. 1 position among the MPs in the overall performance.

PreSense also takes pride that Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Minster for Law and Justice and also the Chairman of the Jury Committee of Sansad Ratna Awards (an initiative of this eMagazine PreSense) has piloted this historic Bill in the Parliament.

While congratulating the Government and all political parties for the historic decision, PreSense is of the view that this will empower Indian women more in governance.

For background information about this Bill and a comparison with other countries. Please read the analysis by PRS India

https://tinyurl.com/womenbill2023

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Hair Donation Helps Cancer Patients to Restore Self-Confidence

Many of us have heard about donation of eye, kidney, organs, etc. But most of us are not aware that we can actually donate hair and that too for a good cause. Suparna Gangal, a Pune based International Video Journalist, got introduced to this concept while researching for a story. The story wasn't commissioned but, she realized that, the least that she could do to this wonderful cause was to donate her own hair. Many chemo patients especially women become very self-conscious the moment they start losing the hair during the treatment of cancer. Keeping one's morale high is really important while fighting this dreaded disease. Loss of hair creates a massive dent in confidence for those undergoing cancer treatment.



Suparna Gangal with her hair for donation

A human hair wig costs around Rs. 25,000 onwards. Many of the patients already burdened with the treatment cost, cannot afford a wig. That's where the NGOs come in. They

appeal to people to send in hair and cash donations and they create wigs for patients who are unable to afford them. The minimum length required by them is 12 inches. One just needs to Google and figure out the process of donation and place where one can courier her valuable hair.

When doing it for the first time, growing one's hair is the easy part. Measuring it to the requisite length and then cutting it is psychologically tough. Imagine if it's so hard to cut just some portion of one's grown hair, what it must feel like to turn bald and fight the disease at the same time.

Suparna recently donated her hair for the 2nd time and it wasn't so tough because, she has read multiple stories about the massive difference that a wig can make to a patient.

In an exclusive conversation with PreSense, Suparna says, "Go ahead; grow hair and donate. If you are unable to do that, don't fret. Another important aspect is the monetary cost of making a wig. What you can do is, simply send a monetary donation to the NGO that is willing on the patients to fight cancer by bringing their self-confidence back by restoring their hair and confidence, both".
Suparna also suggests that popular salons in all the centres can also promote this concept by aligning with some NGOs. Even ordinary people can have the satisfaction of doing extraordinary things.

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"Always Focus on Your Work and not on the Outcome"- Supriya Sule MP



Supriya Sule, a well-known Indian political leader, is the daughter of Sharad Pawar, another senior Indian leader. She was a Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha between Sep 2006 and May 2009. Since 2009, she is a Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha and has served 15th and 16th Lok Sabha. Presently, she is the Member of the 17th Lok Sabha representing the Nationalist Congress Party, elected from the Baramati (Maharashtra) Constituency.

She has been campaigning against female feticide for several years. She is one of the outstanding Indian Parliamentarians of the 15th, 16th and 17th Lok Sabha. She is also a Sansad Ratna, Sansad Maha Ratna and Sansad

Vishisht Ratna Awardee instituted by Prime Point Foundation and PreSense.

In an exclusive conversation Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor, PreSense had with Supriya Sule shares her experience. Excerpts:

Why did you choose this profession?

Being a representative of people, gives me a great opportunity to serve people and make a difference in their lives and provide them better living conditions.

Who is your role model and why?

Shri Yashwantrao Chavan and my parents; reason being hard work, visionary and taking success and failure in their stride.

Where do you gain strength and motivation from?

My family and all the self-help groups I work with.

What are the challenges you faced while growing professionally and how did you overcome them?

Myself being a full-time politician, it constantly provides me with multiple learning opportunities and avenues for personal growth like reading, empathetic listening, meeting people, introspecting my work, life, etc. etc.

Challenges are a part of life - it makes life more interesting. There is no perfect life, grass always appears greener on the other side but no one really knows what any other

person goes through. One must have strong core values, focus and keep working towards your cause and do not worry and measure success. You can only control factors within your control like your own behaviour, words, intentions, desires, etc. Many factors like the outcome and end result are not in your control. Always focus on your work and not on the outcome. Never ever give up on what you like to do.

Is managing family commitments with work a tough challenge? Your insights to young working mothers?

We women are gifted with multitasking and are good managers. I believe in gender equality. I think every woman is a leader - she works 24x7 and delivers superior results.

How important is family support to one's growth and how did your family support you?



My family is my pillar of strength - they continue to contribute to my growth both professionally and personally.

Do you feel gender bias exists at work place? If yes, how did you handle it?

No. My male colleagues have been extremely supportive of me and fellow women MPs. I have lived in Mumbai, Pune and Baramati, which are all very cosmopolitan cities, which helped me a lot in my journey

Is the society prepared (after 75 years of independence) to see and accept women as leaders and achievers?

Yes absolutely. You can see this reflect in the Parliament itself where important Constitutional positions like President of India, Speaker of Lok Sabha are held by women. We also see many women CEOs, bankers, doctors, engineers, home makers, etc. It's amazing

What is your one achievement that you consider as the greatest and significant in your profession?

Under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, we managed to assist and help many people with physical aids and assisted living devices to senior citizens and differently abled. Actually, we topped the country in implementation, thanks to the team.

What according to you are the pre-requisites for a successful woman?

Hard work, open to new ideas, listen, read, willingness to serve people to best of one's ability, and willingness to stand up for peoples' development and wellbeing.

One lesson your experiences taught you?

Whether it is man or woman, patience should be kept in all up and downs we face in life. Patience teaches us how to overcome the toughest times we face.

Your advice to women who aspire to be in your place?

I have always supported women in politics and the NCP Yuvati wing has encouraged young women to join politics. I would like to give them the same advice my father has given me before I entered politics - people are supreme. They are the ones who have voted you to be their representative. So always remember to be humble and give priority to people and their issues.



Supriya Sule with her father Sharad Pawar

Always treat people the way you would like to be treated. Respect and listen empathetically to others, value people and relationships

Keep your mind always open, we all learn from many people every day. Leadership is about service to all your stakeholders.

(Published in the April 2022 edition of PreSense)

PM Modi's Security Breach: Need for Legislation to fix Accountability



When the nation was gearing up to celebrate the 73rd Republic Day with pride, the country unfortunately witnessed an incident of security breach of our Prime Minister at Punjab. On the 5th of January 2022 during his visit to the National Martyr's Memorial at Hussainiwala, his convoy got stuck on a flyover for around 20 minutes, blocked by protesting farmers.

Special Protection Group (SPG) entrusted with the task of providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India sprang into action and surrounded his car to prevent any untoward incident, a sheer collapse of security administration. The PM cancelled his schedule and

returned to Delhi. A Senior IPS Officer says, “there could have been a bomb under the bridge, the car could easily have been targeted by a well-positioned sniper or grenade-launcher, or faced an attack from a drone, an IED, or some other similarly easily-procured weapon” as this security lapse had happened just 15 kilometres from Pakistan border.

It is well known that the overall responsibility of securing the prime minister on his visits to states lies with the respective state forces — a rule that has in fact been codified in the SPG’s “Blue Book” guidelines.

Response of the Punjab Government and reaction of the Opposition

As per protocol the State Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police should have received the Prime Minister, which was not observed. The conspicuous breach of protocol by them led to serious debates. The PM security protocol demands that the State’s DGP be prepared with plan A plan B and plan C route map of PM with required movements and scouting. Suspension of the Superintendent of Police and transfer of DGP later cannot undo the event.

The most shocking response was from Punjab Chief Minister saying, “since there were persons carrying the BJP banners on the flyover where the PM’s convoy was

stranded, the PM could not conceivably have been under serious threat". Punjab Congress President, publicly claimed it as a "tit for tat for the "suffering" faced by the farmers on Delhi's borders. Such allegedly irresponsible and immature statements from senior leaders apparently angered the people.

Our country has been a witness to several assassinations of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi by ones who claimed to be supporters and security guards. We have also witnessed the mysterious death of the Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. This insensitive response of the opposition is a true sign of immaturity even after 75 years of independence. The Prime Minister of India is not just a leader of a political party, but the most important constitutional authority and his security is a reflection of our national security, globally.

Security lapse near Indo Pak Border

Security breach of the Prime Minister of India, compromising protocols, conventions and miscommunication between the State and Central security agencies close to Indo Pakistan border is a matter of serious concern. Neither was the State police security tightened nor did it curb the large number of demonstrators who blocked the pre-decided route of the Prime Minister. The State Police did not make any attempt to remove these demonstrators immediately.

PM’s travel by helicopter was dropped due to rain and poor visibility and as per the Ministry of Home Affairs, PM Modi proceeded to travel by road only after necessary confirmation of security arrangements by the DGP Punjab Police.

It was also reported in a section of the media that the Punjab State Police was fully aware of the plans by protestors to disrupt traffic on crucial roads and had constantly updated senior police officials about the intensity. They were also aware of the announcement by the Fringe group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) offering Rs.1 lakh reward for anyone who threw a shoe at PM Modi during his visit to Punjab. In spite of this, it is not known why Punjab Police did not follow the security norms to protect the Prime Minister.

Hon’ble Supreme Court’s intervention.

Taking cognizance of this mammoth security breach, the Chief Justice of India formed a committee under Justice Malhotra, Supreme Court Judge (retd), to probe into the circumstances that led to the PM's security lapse. The committee will also include DGP Chandigarh, Inspector General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court and Additional DGP Punjab. The committee is expected to submit its report at the earliest.

The after effect of threatening calls to the advocates of Supreme Court, petitioner and others, clarify that the incident cannot be taken as a mere lapse of security but rather as a planned event targeting the PM of our country. *It is now left to the Supreme Court to intervene and unveil the truth of this allegedly condemnable event.*

Ministry of Home Affairs should discuss with all the Security Agencies, including SPG to strengthen the security of Constitutional authorities like Prime Minister, President and others. If required, necessary legislation can be introduced fixing

(Published in the Jan 2022 edition of PreSense)

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Why Brilliant Brains Leave India? – An Analysis



For many decades, even from Mahatma Gandhi's days, our country has been discussing the issue of 'Brain Drain'. In recent years, the discussion has gathered more pace on why brilliant minds are migrating overseas. Persons of Indian Origin have set off a new trend in occupying the top

positions globally in Information Technology Companies, Universities, Media channels, Politics, etc. Even as we take pride that Indians are taking top slots in different verticals globally, we are pretty much concerned as to why the country has not been able to recognise their talents and retain them for India's development. Can we limit, if not prevent brain drain to retain these intellectuals here? Or is it a market driven mechanism that's encouraging India's brilliant minds to migrate for better opportunities?

Who leaves India and why?

In 1990, nearly 7 million Indians were residing outside the country. In 2010, the figure rose to 17 million. In 2020, it is around 33 million. Out of this, the US alone accounted for nearly 5 million Indians who had left home. It is also reported that the majority of the top rankers of Class 10 and 12 are silently leaving India since 1996.

Three types of categories of people, namely: (1) Students for higher studies, (2) Professionals and (3) High Net Worth individuals (HNIs) leave India every year. Reports indicate that in the last 5 years, 5 lakh people left India. One may well argue that this is a small percentage of the nations' 1.3 billion population. The figure as a proportion of the nation's population may be small, but it is significant considering their huge contribution to their host countries, which otherwise would have benefitted India on a large scale. Hence, it cannot be ignored.

Prior to foreign invasion, India has been the epicentre of knowledge. We had great mathematicians like Aryabhatta and Bhaskara. We had great Universities in Nalanda, Kasi and Kanchi. We dominated globally in the spheres of literature, music, architecture, education, medicine, surgery, astronomy, chemistry, astrology, etc. After nearly a thousand-years foreign rule, India has sadly lost its pristine glory. Unfortunately, now we do not have a single University in India, which ranks among the top 100 at a global level. With a billion plus population, India is no longer able to produce Nobel Laureates.

Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, an Indian born Bio Physics Scientist, after completing his college education, was denied a lecturer's post at Madras University. He migrated to US and UK and became a Nobel Laureate in 2009. He is one of very few people holding dual citizenship in the US and UK. The Indian Government honoured him with the second highest civilian award Padma Vibhushan in 2010.

Dr C S Ranawat, a medical professional, was denied employment in a leading Indian Medical University. He migrated to the US to become a world-renowned Orthopaedic surgeon, who had the distinction of operating on the Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was also honoured by the Indian Government with the third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2001.

Ramanujam, a clerk in the Madras Port Trust, was spotted by a Britisher and sent to London. He soon became a world-renowned Mathematician. Today, it's a matter of pride that he is referred and quoted by scientists the world over in their research works.

We can keep listing such persons, rejected by the Indian education system, but who went on to earn worldwide recognition to become eminent personalities. We can attribute this phenomenon to many reasons, ranging from plain and simple discrimination to water tight government policies which inhibited recognition and encouraging talent.

While writing this story, we had discussions with successful persons of Indian origin abroad, Indian educationists and a few others.

Says Ms. Jay Amburkar, Managing Director of one of the leading Global Consultancy firms, talented Indian's leave the country due to (a) lack of a conducive and quality atmosphere to thrive, (b) mark-based education system without skill development and (3) wage gap. Jay Amburkar, a brilliant engineer left India for the US 10 years ago and she has reached the level of a Managing Director, primarily because of her talents.

Talking about wages, the average income of Indians in America is around 1.30 lakh dollars per annum, almost twice that of the US Average of 0.65 lakh dollars. In 2019, Indian immigrants were less likely to be in poverty (5

percent) than immigrants overall (14 percent) or the U.S. born (12 percent).

These data indicate that the Indians who are migrating to other countries, particularly the US and European countries get better opportunities to showcase their skills and earn more. Though the Indian Government took steps to bring down the brain drain through the National Skill Development Mission, it did not achieve its objective.

Many people we spoke to say that the present mark-based education system in India has not led to skill development. Even the brilliant students who migrate to other countries, have to develop the skills to rise up the ladder. “Culture of teaching and learning has to change. Doing courses for jobs is the main motive here, not passion or excellence”, Says Dr Sudarshan Padmanabhan of IIT Madras.

One of the successful entrepreneurs in the US, who chose to be anonymous, says that he was forced to migrate to the US, because he was denied an opportunity in India due to the government’s reservation policies (69% in Tamil Nadu), despite his outstanding academic achievements. ”The US recognizes talents, irrespective of caste, creed and nationality”, he adds. However, another section, who supports the reservation policy argues that this policy has helped lot of downtrodden and under privileged people to come up in life and reach higher places, which could not be possible without this policy. At the same time, the

reservation policy with less space for meritorious persons has added forced competitive spirit among the affected persons to scale up to greater heights globally.

Prof. Sree Sreenivasan, Former Dean of Columbia University and one of the top 50 opinion makers in the US confirms that opportunity is lacking in India to brilliant students. “The Indian elementary, secondary and college system has produced the leaders of the top companies in the world (from Silicon Valley, to Pepsi to Chanel) to the heads of American universities and colleges. Hence the issue isn't education, it's about opportunity”, adds Prof. Sree Sreenivasan.

Agreeing with him, Prof. G Ramesh, Adjunct Professor at Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru says that India has been providing great people to the world. “Typical class room setting in India is very highly competitive, unlike in the US. We prepare them for the competition from school days”, he adds.

Why is India not able to come out with Global products?

Indians are leading global tech giants such as Google, Adobe, Microsoft, etc. On the one hand , India as such has not produced any global product so far. Japan and China are able to bring out their own global products. In India, our educational institutions do not give importance to Research and Innovation. We have only very few Incubation Centers,

to develop market- driven products. Even the researches done in the Universities are not market oriented. Even the academicians accept that our students are not trained for skills and leadership. Though the present New Education Policy addresses many of these issues, implementation is not fast, due to bureaucratic delays and alleged corruption. Some States do not implement such initiatives for their own political reasons and ends.

With great vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought out lots of schemes like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Make in India, etc. to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. Bureaucratic delays and alleged corruption normally put hurdles in implementation.

After the Prime Minister's announcement inviting all Non-Resident Indians to return and launch their projects in India, one of the enterprising professionals resigned from his lucrative job abroad and returned to India to start his own start-up. Vexed with the lack of encouragement and bureaucratic delays and corruption, he returned after three years.

Two years ago, Prime Minister Modi visited IIT Madras Research Park and found a brilliant person with an innovative product. He spent 15 minutes time with him and asked officials to give all support, as the product was needed for the country. Till date, he could not meet even the senior officials of the Ministry. If he had been spotted

by any foreign country, he would have been offered great support giving enough reason to leave the country. This is only the tip of the iceberg. This is how we are losing talents because of our casual and insensitive approach. Unfortunately, even our political parties shout on less important matters and block the proceedings of Parliament. Ironically, intellectuals are not vote bank material.

“We are yet to create an eco-system, which encourages research and innovation. Even though the present Government has taken baby steps, to nurture innovation and research, financial and environmental support are needed”, says D N Prakash, a Trade Union leader and former Banker from Karnataka.

Dr Sudarshan Padmanabhan of IIT Madras also agrees that the Innovation and ecosystem needs to be improved. “We have to encourage fresh ideas, innovation and good practices in all professional disciplines”, he adds.

Investment in research is very low. Investment is looked at in terms of immediate benefits and returns. Government funding is lacking in areas of demand where research is needed most. On the positive side, it is also pointed out that many Indian transnationals such as Tata’s and the Mahindra group are acquiring global brands thus expanding their global footprint.

What the Government should do?

Japan and China have global products. They started the process as early as the 70s and implemented faster. They could penetrate the global market and thus make international brands. According to Prof. G Ramesh of IIM, Bengaluru, the Governments of China and Japan used to push their companies in the global market with financial support. “Indian Government is always afraid of promoting companies for fear of being criticized. The Government has to decide to promote 20 good companies, in spite of what people say. They should also give financial assistance. But they should do it transparently”, he adds.

Prof. Ramesh further adds that one Indian Company that secured 500 million dollars project abroad could not produce the sovereign guarantee from the Indian Government. At the same time, the Chinese Government provided the required guarantee and edged out India to get the project for their Company.

Conclusion

India has a great chance of becoming a global leader in three domains viz. Pharma, Automobile and Software. Mahindra has already entered the US market and has become a global brand. There is a mindset that only capturing the US market is global. Capturing Europe, Africa and other markets also are global.

Some of our educational institutions have entered various other countries. Financially we are listed in New York Stock Exchange. Tata and TVS group companies and many Chennai based units are supplying automobile spare parts to leading global brands.

“The government has to support the entrepreneurs financially and help them to bring out global products, removing the bureaucratic delays and reported corruption. In my view, Start-up Companies, if encouraged, may become global brands, because they are risk takers, fleet footers and technology players.”, Says Prof. G Ramesh with confidence.

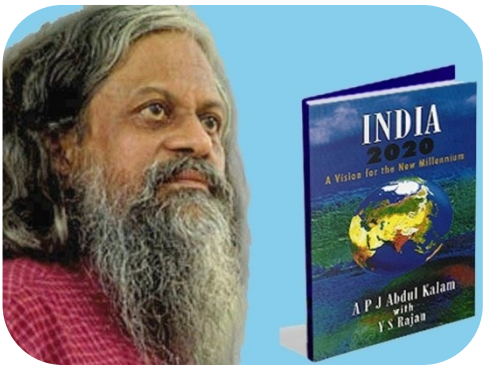
(Published in the Dec 2021 edition of PreSense)

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The Milestone Journey of 'PreSense', over 16 Years

When many of the newsletters and eMagazines started around 2005/2006 vanished after two or three issues, PreSense started in March 2006 as Digital-only eMagazine withstood its challenges, surviving for 15 years and counting. PreSense proudly launches its 175th edition with its sustained rich contents and perseverance of the Editorial team.

On the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, to start a magazine for positive journalism, Prime Point Srinivasan convened a meeting of some of the young communication students and professionals during Feb 2006. Within one hour, they conceptualised the theme. The team decided to focus on the various aspects of communication and to create communication awareness amongst the people, corporates and business segment. It was decided to publish the eMagazine once in a month and to release through various



Dr Y S Rajan flagged off the journey

Yahoo discussions groups managed by Prime Point Srinivasan. Those discussion groups had members across the globe belonging to public relations, journalism and communication related profession. Mr. Satish, an enthusiastic communication student of Anna University, suggested the name “PR-e-Sense”, focussing on Public Relations and other communication related areas. Within few minutes, he designed the Logo and presented to the group. That was an interesting beginning of a concept to reality.

People hesitant to give interviews

Though the Yahoo groups managed by Prime Point Srinivasan had hundreds of corporate communication professionals, sadly no CEO was willing to give his interviews for an eMagazine which was to be launched. All the CEOs and top management professionals preferred to give their interviews to the leading magazines and newspapers and not to a tiny eMagazine, the concept of which was not popular then.


PR e-sense

First edition – March 2006

Finally, Dr Y S Rajan, a close associate of Dr Abdul Kalam and the co-author of the book ‘India 2020’ with Dr Kalam

encouraged the team to go ahead with the new initiative and offered to give his first interview and launched the first edition of the eMagazine online on 6th March 2006. The first edition carried the interviews of Dr Y S Rajan and B Suresh Kamath, Chairman of Laser soft Infosystems Limited, a leading banking software company. That marked the humble beginning of a long journey.

Introducing innovations

The concept of Podcasts emerged in 2005. PreSense integrated many interviews with podcast links. Realising the importance of an eMagazine, many international communication professionals came forward to give their interviews. PreSense invited them as Guest Editors. The Guest Editors were, the Presidents of Chartered Institute of Public Relations (London), Public Relations Society of America, Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa and Institute of Public Relations of Singapore and more.

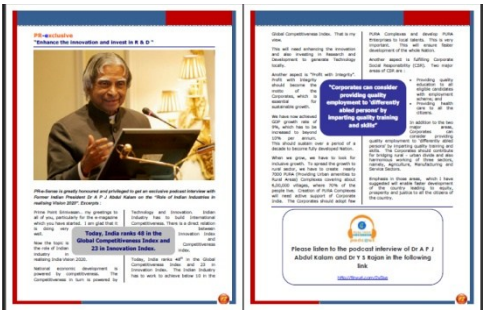
Change of Logo and new layout

PRESENSE

New Masthead

In February 2008, with PReSense completing two years, it underwent a major reform with the change in its masthead and the layout, to make it appear savvier to the readers. The same Masthead continues till date.

PReSense had the privilege and honour of carrying an exclusive interview with Dr. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, in its second anniversary issue.



First exclusive interview with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam for Feb 2008 edition

The interview was recorded over phone and the audio version was also integrated with the article. This enhanced our image and credibility greatly among readers.

Dr Abdul Kalam launched cartoon character Prince



Dr Abdul Kalam launching the first Prince cartoon on 24th July 2008 at Raj Bhavan, Chennai



On the suggestion of Dr. Abdul Kalam, PReSense introduced cartoons in its July 2008 edition onwards. Mr Triambak Sharma, a noted cartoonist and editor of Cartoon watch, a cartoon magazine, created a new cartoon character, PRince. PRince was launched by Dr Abdul Kalam himself at Raj Bhavan, Chennai. The Cartoon Character Prince was designed similar to cartoon character 'Common Man' of R K Laxman. But Prince, dressed in

trendy manner, represents the aspirations of the youth of the country. PRince Cartoon is being featured regularly in monthly editions, since then. PReSense has published 160 PRince Cartoons, highlighting topical themes, till September 2021.



Triambak Sharma

In April 2010, The Wall Street Journal reproduced one of the PRince cartoons, with prior permission from the Editor (picture). This gesture attests the popularity of the eMagazine at the global level.

Digital Media Partnership with Global events



PreSense continued to win increasing recognition among the literary and corporate readers and in April 2008, several international organisations approached the editorial team for their association with PReSense, as a Digital media partner in global events. Normally, only print and television media are preferred by international organisations for media partnership. For the first time in the world, an eMagazine, viz. PReSense



May 2008 edition

became the media partner in 2008 for the international conferences organised by Chartered Institute of Public Relations at London in UK, and by Public Relations Society of America at Detroit in USA. Thereafter, PReSense was invited to be the Digital media partner for several other international conferences held in different countries like South Africa, Singapore, etc.

Resuming the journey after a brief break – Broad-basing readership

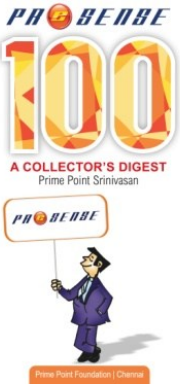
PReSense focussed on communication related themes till its 60th edition. After a brief break of a few months, the editorial team resumed PreSense in April 2012 with the 61st edition, coinciding with the Sansad Ratna Awards 2012 to the top performing MPs. The tagline 'Communicate the Communication' used in the first 60 editions of the eMagazine was changed to 'Spreading Positive Vibrations'. Though the masthead continued to be the same, the name of the eMagazine was changed from "PR–e–Sense" (while reading, PR pause e pause sense) to Pre–Sense (while reading, Pre pause Sense).

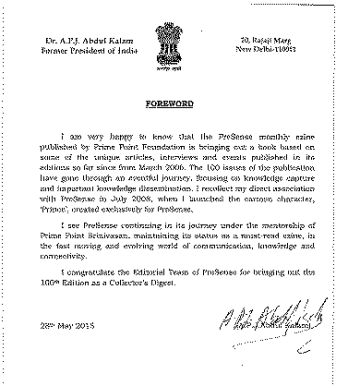
The format of the contents of the eMagazine changed in its 62ndedition and PreSense still continues in the revised format. The PreSense edition carries contents from different domains including Health, Current Affairs, Economics, Politics, Governance, Heritage, History, Technology, Media, etc. The new format has interested a

larger audience of readers. The contents cater to readers of different age-groups. PreSense is widely shared through emails and social media.

Digest of articles

PreSense started publishing digest of published articles from the 100th edition, titled *PreSense100 – A Collector's Digest.* This digest was released in an impressive function held at Chennai. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam gave the Foreword for this digest.





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

20, Rajaji Marg
New Delhi-110001

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 columns so far since from March 2006. The 100 issues of the publication have gone through an eventful journey, focussing 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 this 100th Edition as a Collector's Digest.

28th May 2015

Subsequently, digest of articles published up to 110, 130 and 150th editions with titles PreSense100+, PreSense130 and PreSense 150 respectively were also released both in print and ebook format. The digest of articles published up to 175th edition was released on 26th September 2021 in 8 volumes. (The links are given at the end).

15th Anniversary of PreSense and launch of ebook

15th Anniversary of PreSense was celebrated virtually on 24th July 2021. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble MoS for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India launched an ebook while his travelling in train, virtually. The ebook titled "PreSense Speaks on Communication, Journalism and Reputation Management' contains select articles published in PreSense from the beginning till that time.

Flagship Initiatives



Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal launching the ebook from the running train

Prime Point Foundation (Publisher) and PreSense have started four initiatives viz. (1) Sansad Ratna Awards for outstanding Parliamentarians, (2) Next Gen Political Leaders to develop future political leaders, (3) Digital Journalists Association of India to create digital journalism awareness and (4) Education Loan Task Force to create education loan awareness among students. All the initiatives are flagship initiatives in their own fields and are managed independently by professionals of the respective fields.

Many eminent and globally renowned persons like Jimmy Wales (Founder of Wikipedia), Vinton Cerf (Father of

Internet), Dr APJ Abdul Kalam (Former President of India) and many Indian Constitutional authorities, Senior Political



leaders, heads of global organisations have shared their views exclusively with PreSense. Many eminent professionals, advocates, academicians, social workers, journalists have been and are associated with the Editorial Board to provide high quality contents. PreSense is managed by enthusiastic professionals voluntarily without any commercial motive and without soliciting advertisements. Every edition is released on the first day of the calendar month, digitally, through various groups and social media.

PreSense has achieved the highest credibility for its positive journalism. With the support and guidance of readers, PreSense continues the journey in the digital world.

Kindly download the Brochure for more detailed information on the journey of PreSense.

http://www.prpoint.com/publication/presense-16years-journey.pdf

(Published in the Sep 2021 edition of PreSense)

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"We are There for You", Dr Amol Ramsing Kolhe MP

Your eMagazine PreSense has been discussing with all the outstanding Sansad Ratna Awardee Parliamentarians to understand as to how they manage Covid-19 crisis and support the people in their constituency. In an exclusive talk on Zoom, with Priyadharshni Rahul, Editor of PreSense, Dr Amol Ramsing Kolhe (Member of Parliament,



NCP, Shirur, Maharashtra) through Zoom, explained how he supports his people and also the preparedness to manage the expected third wave of Covid attack. Dr Amol is a medical doctor turned actor turned politician.

Excerpts from the talk:

Priya: **A practicing Doctor to an Actor to a Politician, how did it happen?**

Dr Amol: Every profession I chose has multiplied happiness, as a doctor I spread happiness to 500 people, as an actor to about 2000 audience, but as a Politician and with the teachings of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Chhatrapati Shambaji's values, I can reach to larger section and can make a deeper impact. Both my earlier professions help me extensively to discharge my duties as a public representative.

Priya: Having played historical roles and being a noted personality in Maharashtra, was the expectation of the public more than expected during the Covid crisis? Being a first time MP how did you manage?

Dr Amol: We saw the first wave starting in 2019, second in 2020 and third wave is anticipated. We don't have public hospitals in proportion to our population. During the first wave my duty was to make people aware about this virus. I made numerous awareness videos on early warning signs, to maintain oxygen level, precautions and more in simple language and shared in social media. Despite being a Doctor, just like others, I needed much more clarity and I did extensive research and discussions before spreading my knowledge.

I am proud that the first Covid Centre in Maharashtra was established in Shirur constituency and opened various smaller RTPCR test centers to help the public. I really appreciate the Covid Governance by our Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister in handling such a densely populated state with many metro cities. The first wave required Covid care centre and the second wave required more of tertiary care as 'hypoxia', sudden drop in oxygen level was prevalent.

Priya: What was the best decision you took in the MP-Doctor combined persona?

Dr Amol: 'Fabiflu' drug was prescribed for Covid symptoms and the cost was also higher as each course was of 40 tablets, secondly the clinical research was inadequate to prove the complete cure of Covid. As an MP, I brought it to the notice of the Central Health Minister and Drug Controller General of India and with multiple meetings, the rates were slashed to almost 50% and the drug was given its exact indication as 'only for mild infection'. I emphasized in Parliament that need of the tertiary healthcare was the need of the hour and requested the private hospitals to 'step down protocol' and offer ICU beds only for critical patients. I propagated CAPR protocol and the importance of it in raising oxygen levels.

We also had sessions to 'Train the Doctors'. Opening free kitchens in my constituency was a very important step to cater **to** migrant workers and the under privileged.

Priya: Administratively you pushed the system to its optimum level, how did you provide emotional support to your constituency?

Dr Amol: I strictly preached and followed Covid norms as much as I could. I met people through video conferencing, Zoom and other virtual platforms because my going will create commotion and crowding. I should also thank many hospitals that were kind enough to waive off lakhs of rupees over just a call of mine for those patients couldn't afford to pay. I gave my constituency the confidence that we are there for them.

Priya: As your Constituency is majorly rural, what was the biggest challenge?

Dr Amol: the biggest difficulty was to make them aware of the disease, because the steps to curb the first wave were different from the second and it needs a clear explanation to public. There were majorly three types of people, one saying 'nothing will happen to me', other saying 'even if it happens not a big issue' and the third being the families who have already lost their members in Covid, each of them have a different mindset. To tackle all of them in the same way was a challenge. As Ratan Tata rightly quoted in the initial days of Covid, 'It is the moment to sustain your existence, if you last you will grow'. It was merely a war like situation, the soldier who survives will fight more. To save yourself is important, to save your people is important and making this aware is even more important.

Priya: How are you preparing for the third wave?

Dr Amol: As a trend, the first wave affected the elders, the second wave affected the middle aged so the third wave is predicted by experts to affect children. I am very confident and hopeful that it will not be that severe as in adults. Vaccination, early diagnosis and self discipline are the only solution.

To connect to Hon'ble MP - 02132- 242424, 9697802424, 9422084084,
contact@amolkolhe.com

Please watch the full interview in the following link
https://youtu.be/0hDQVVJ6MgA

(Published in the July 2021 edition of PreSense)

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Print Media Will Fade Away in Future Due to the Emergence of Social Media – Maxim Behar, President of World Communication Forum Association



In a freewheeling conversation through Zoom with Priyadharshni Rahul, Deputy Editor, PreSense, Maxim Behar, President of the World Communication Forum Association, Davos, Switzerland, discussed broadly on Public Relations, Advertisements, Social Media, Print Media, Education, Skills of women, Public Affairs, etc. He also outlined the importance of social media in the era of modern communication. He predicted advertisers in future would prefer social media than print media, which may lead to the fading away of print media. Maxim Behar has authored many books, including the most popular titles,

'The global PR Revolution' and 'The morning After'. Excerpts:

Priya: Is Global Communication just a philosophy or a reality, given the multilingual and multicultural scenario of our world?

Maxim: First of all communication is business, nothing else. To my understanding communication is very dynamic that is developing and changing very fast. Global communication exists because of social media. Even the talks and conversation in a small community becomes global communication in a couple of minutes. There are four billion users in the social media. This means there are four billion people expressing their views. This means that there are four billion Editors in Chief all over the world. Lots of local information is exchanged globally.

Priya: You have a unique combination of expertise in peace study and public affairs. India being the largest democracy of the world, still public affairs is not defined in the way it is defined in Western countries. Can you give an insight about public affairs for developing countries like India?

Maxim: I simply love India. I always appreciate how India conducts its Democracy, people, culture. I also feel sorry for the corona attack in India. I know Indians are strong and they will come out of this challenge with more strength.

Public Affairs should be absolutely transparent, ethical and a good functioning entity between the society and its

Government. I am very cautious about using the word 'lobbying' because it's perceived with suspicion. Public affairs pushes ones Government to act in favour of the people, transparently, ethically and efficiently. We have seen many Ministries acting transparently and ethically doing nothing and public don't wish to come on streets to talk about it. Through Social Media people force the Governments to act efficiently. If the Governments are not doing anything, they can be sent home. If they are doing well, they can be given further opportunity. At the end of the day, people all over the world want to live in peace and a better life.

2021 has provided lot of opportunities to get knowledge through internet and social media. Even Nobel Prize winners are available through social media and zoom. We can communicate with anyone globally who has the knowledge which was not thought of ten years ago. Internet connects knowledge. If we have the knowledge, then the combination of ethics, transparency and hard work can take any nation to great success.

Priya: You are the founding member and the present President of World communication Forum Association; can you say something about your work?

Maxim: World communication Forum Association is based at Davos, Switzerland. We are doing events for nearly a decade. When global Presidents and Prime Ministers meet at World Economic Forum, we have separate meetings with them as a follow up with World Communication Forum. It is a great community of high level professionals and friends

across the world. We have members all over the world. We discuss serious business issues. The Last World Communication Summit held at Davos was attended by more than 450 professionals globally. We plan to launch Davos Communication Academy shortly. India has 3 Members in the Global Executive Board. India is the only country that has three members in the Global Executive Board.

Priya: You have been talking about political communication, with more focus to youngsters. We also have an initiative called Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL) to groom young political leaders in India. How important is communication in political arena?

Maxim: This is the most important thing. It is very important for Politicians and Political advisors to be very good in communication and should take sensible advices to action. Earlier, when a politician gives an interview to a print media, it becomes one-way communication. Now with social media growing, every political statement appears online, hundred thousand persons give their opinions in minutes. It is two way communication, only in this way you can understand your people and get feedbacks. Politicians and their Advisors should be more careful when they reply and react on social media, especially in a country like India that has a huge population.

Priya: You are from Print Media. With the growth of internet and digital media, will print media survive?

Maxim: I spent around 20 years in print media. I was the Editor in chief for a big news paper. When I left the job and started my business, it was the beginning of internet. In 1990's, when internet appeared, even before the social media, it was absolutely clear that print media would fade away. People used to disagree with me. I used to tell them that it was a reality. Especially after social media, print media would disappear, not because of bad journalism, but because of financial problems. Advertisers would like to advertise in social media, since they have targeted audience. Advertisers can also chose the target like gender, age group, location, etc. In the Print media, advertisers cannot get the exact number of readers who saw the advertisement. The Editors can give only the circulation information. First time in the history, media is measurable. In the social media, advertisers get the exact details of every reader and the impact is measurable exactly. Though Print media may have good journalism, Advertisers won't go there.

Priya: What is the responsibility of media in handling the emotions of the people during Covid situation. In the social media, many create panic and it is chaotic. How to bring social media in main stream?

Maxim: People trust social media. Fake news is read by more people than the genuine messages. People listen to a Taxi driver who writes in an interesting manner, than the Minister or any intelligent person who writes officially in a language most often not understood by people. There are millions of advantages and certain disadvantages with social media. The major challenge is the 'Fake news'. The

Governments should have clear vision to handle the fake news. We should fight the 'fake news pandemic'. Another biggest disadvantage is the anonymous postings that social media platforms permit. If the users are transparent and ethical, social media can bring more benefit. Nowadays, platforms like face book, Twitter and LinkedIn are also fighting against fake news and that's a good development to curb fake news.

A century ago, when Henry Ford introduced Gasoline car, people commented that it would not survive for a long time. People then were using horse cart. With the gasoline car, they had to replace the cart with tyre, engine, gasoline, etc. They scared the engine may blast. Hence they all felt that it would not survive. Today we don't ride horse carts, we drive automobile cars.

I compare this with social media. Lot of people criticize social media as dangerous that it generates fake news, destroy brands, spread lies, etc. Still it will survive. It has to be tamed.

Priya: We have seen you receiving the global awards with your women colleagues behind you. Was that a purposeful message? Your views on women in communication?

Maxim: My Company has 98% women employees. I do not look at the gender, education, nativity of the candidates for employment. When I interview the candidates, I only watch the 'Spark in the eyes'. That means his/her ambition to develop a career, knowledge, work in a new company, etc.

In the public relations business, women make much better team than men. In my experience, I found women more ambitious, knowledgeable and consistent to show achievement. Women have more efficient communication skills.

Priya: What are your expectations from youngsters?

Maxim: It is difficult to define who is a youngster. These days, a teenager is much more capable than a 50 year old person. Speed of taking decision is crucial than to find whether someone is young or old. I have given three principles to my office, called 'Three S' viz. (1) Speed of taking decision (2) Simplicity and (3) Self confidence.
I always say, 'worst decision' is better than a 'no decision'. Every minute you need to take decision. You can correct your decision later. Speed of communication, speed of answering your emails and social media and speed of everything.

Simplicity means prioritise your tasks. Make it simple, like when you post something in social media, it should be short and clear. Readers should understand. All capable people should have self confidence. They should know what they should achieve and how to achieve.

Priya: Can you say something about International Communication Consultancy organization (ICCO) which you founded?

Maxim: It is the largest Public Relations Community in the world. I am in the Board for 13 years. I was the President.

I am the Chair for International Growth now to bring more countries on board. This is a community of high level experts of more than 70 countries. The current President of ICCO is an Indian. We impose professional standards to all the members. There is a debate as to what will rule in future, whether Public Relations or Advertising or Digital. I say Public Relations will be the future as we are the masters of content creators and the best story tellers.

Priya: Is Accreditation important for communication professionals?

Maxim: It is being discussed for a long time, whether PR professionals need to be accredited like doctors and lawyers. I feel it is better to leave it to the market. Communication expert need not be accredited. Our clients have to accredit us. If the person or company does not possess sufficient knowledge or capability, they will be out of market. We should leave it to open market and to clients.

Priya: Will there be any accreditation board in future?

Maxim: I can expect. It has a huge market. We should see how it works and how our clients look at that. Clients can prefer non accredited persons and companies as well. Our business should be done carefully, as we can influence the society and media, we can't afford to do anything the wrong way.

Priya: You have started a college for communication studies. Tell us about this.

Maxim: Education is the base of our business. Same way, business is also the base for the education. It is a win win situation. Business is moving 100 miles per hour speed, whereas education is moving only 30 miles per hour. Problem is a big gap between the practice and education. More practitioners should come to Universities and share their knowledge. Students also should come to business and get knowledge. Knowledge is found in the companies and not merely in the Universities.

Priya: During ABCI Award function, you promised to focus on India. Has there been any advancement?

Maxim: India is deeply in my heart. I got the Communicator of the decade award from ABCI. India can be useful for global community with her rich culture and expertise. I have visited India 2 or 3 times after receiving the award. I have spoken in some Universities. I have also invited Indian experts to our country. Our first meeting with Prime Point Foundation can bring us together. You can contact me through social media.

Priya: Your advice to Indian Professionals.

Maxim: Don't waste your time in unnecessary and stupid conversations. Be pragmatic. Communicate with proper people; learn proper lessons; be successful in proper way; be ethical and transparent. Everything will fall in place.

The full interview can be watched at
https://youtu.be/t6e2Nk6hbww
He can be reached through
https://www.facebook.com/maxbehar

(Published in the June 2021 edition of PreSense)

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The media should give emotional support to the Public – Shrirang Appa Barne MP



The Sansad Ratna Awards Committee is a body that expressively believes in the democratic system, and has faith in its performing Parliamentarians (MPs). Best performing Members of Parliament are honoured with with Sansad Ratna Awards for the past 12 years. At this juncture of the pandemic and panic, we are interacting with our Award-winning MPs to understand the way they are tackling this pandemic in their respective constituencies. This is an effort by Team PreSense to motivate and fight this situation in unity – to spread oneness faster than the virus. (Ms Priyadharshni Rahul, Deputy Editor, conducted the interview).

Introduction of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Mr Shriranga Appa Barne, MP, Maval Constituency (Maharashtra State) is a second-term Parliamentarian and

has received the Sansad Ratna Award for five years in a row. He was awarded the Sansad Maha Ratna Award for the 16th Lok Sabha for his outstanding performance. He is one of the Jury Committee Members also.

The Interview

Priya: *Now that the situation is so alarming regarding Covid, and no respite is seen for the past one year, how have you been handling this situation, and in particular the healthcare sector at your constituency, Maval?*

MP: My constituency has been acutely affected by this wave. In fact, the entire state of Maharashtra has been. There are two districts under my constituency, *viz.* Pune and Raigad. Pune District has a majorly urban population and about 30% rural population. Pune District saw about 4000 to 4500 Covid cases per day, and Raigad saw about 2500 new cases per day, during the peak of pandemic. In the initial days/months of Covid, there was little understanding about the situation, and much panic in the country. Not much medical facilities that were conducive for Covid treatment, were in place, but in the last one year, the Maharashtra Government has made a lot of arrangements, and has equipped the healthcare segment rapidly, to handle this pandemic. Jumbo Covid centres is one of the flagship initiatives of the State Government, with about 600 to 700 beds per centre. In my constituency, there are many Covid centres with occupancies of 50, 100 and 250 beds, along with a few jumbo centres. I have pooled in industries, CSR funds and volunteers to work together. Exclusive hospitals are set up for Covid treatment.

Although the situation is slightly improving in Maharashtra, my constituency is yet to see a favourable condition, so I keep the medical facilities and the healthcare system in place and equipped, to cater to the situation and probably that is the reason the mortality rate is not more than 1.8%.

It is very important to curb public gatherings, and to maintain Covid norms and that is the reason that for the past nearly one month, we have called for a lockdown. Shops and other essential amenities are permitted to be open from 7 am to 11 am, after which lockdown is imposed for the rest of the day.

Priya: *In this given situation, not just India but the entire world is facing difficulties. But the negative vibes and fears that mainstream media and social media spread, triggers the panic button and makes Covid synonymous with death. Your comments please.*

MP: I want to convey through this interview that panic news and negative news is basically being spread only for TRP ratings. This is putting India in very bad light at the global arena. When we are all affected by this tragic pandemic, the media should give emotional support to the public and the Covid patients, rather than create panic and negativity. I do my bit by personally meeting the Covid patients, to give them moral support and optimism.

Priya: *What do you expect from youngsters at this time, and your advice for them, Sir?*

MP: Please wear masks. Do not form crowds anywhere. Please follow Covid guidelines. By strictly following the norms, our situation can improve and we can put an end to this crisis.

Priya: *How are you managing your emotional quotient and your stress during this Covid situation, as family-man, as an individual, and as MP from your constituency?*

MP: Covid has impacted all families and even mine, but my job calls for my being on the field. So, I strictly follow the Covid norms, bathe once I am back home, maintain a peaceful mind and follow a healthy diet. I have an exclusive office for Covid-related issues, where I spend much of my time. I extend financial and emotional support, or in whatever way possible, to as many people as possible, who are in panic. The Government has approved several financial schemes and I regularly check to see that they reach the targeted public. I check for efficiency in hospitals. I offer free food to the families at hospitals and the economically weaker section. So, my day is fully occupied and I am kept busy.

Priya: *If the people from your constituency need help or need to contact, how can they reach you?*

MP: My PA's (Personal Assistant's) direct contact numbers are +91 9082243901, and +91 9890632115, and my personal mail ID is appabarne@gmail.com. We are available on 24X7 basis, for any help or assistance.

Priya: *We are so proud that a Sansad Maha Ratna and Sansad Ratna Awardee is continuing his outstanding performance at the field level too.*

MP: I sincerely thank Team Sansad Ratna and Prime Point Srinivasan in particular, for recognising my work. The Sansad Ratna Award is such a motivation to MPs like me to continue to do the good work. It is a great opportunity.

The video recording can be viewed in the link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXh_30JxTr0

(Published in the May 2021 edition of PreSense)

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Freedom of Speech is Not Absolute – Rahul Shyam Bhandari, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court



"Freedom of speech and expression is not absolute"- Rahul Bhandari, Supreme Court Advocate

The 17th Edition of the series, 'Dialogue with Experts', organised by your eMagazine PreSense and DiJAI (Digital Journalists of India) under Prime Point Foundation, had Mr Rahul Shyam Bhandari, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India, explaining about the often-misconstrued rights under Freedom of Speech and Expression as outlined in the Constitution of India. A report on the topic as discussed by Mr Bhandari, is brought out below.

Freedom of speech and expression, contained in Article 19(1) of the Constitution of India, is the most precious of all

fundamental rights guaranteed to every citizen of India. 'Fundamental Rights' represents the basic structure of our Constitution, covered from Article 12 to 35 in Part III of the Constitution of India. Essentially, these rights are conferred to the citizens, and cannot be taken away by any Legislation. The Constitution of India is considered a 'living' document, which has catered to the needs of the citizens from generation to generation.

Article 19 provides 6 fundamental rights, and one amongst them is Article 19(1)(a) – Freedom of Speech and Expression. Undoubtedly, freedom of speech and expression is the mother of all liberties. This right has four broad social purposes to serve, which are:

1. Promotion of rule of self-governance,
2. Discovery of truth,
3. Strengthening the participation process in decision making,
4. Societal tolerance and self-restraint.

Freedom of the press is included within this right itself.

A famous judge of the US Supreme Court, Justice Holmes remarked that "free expression does not mean free thought for those who would agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate". This means the value of a dissenting opinion is equally critical for any society. Interestingly, this right also includes the right to silence.

No country across the globe accepts freedom of speech and expression as absolute. Although the 1st Amendment

to the US Constitution says that Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech and expression, and there are no specified restrictions like in India, in practice, the right is not absolute even there and from time to time, the Courts have been applying some restrictions. The same situation prevails in UK where there is freedom of expression, but that is again subject to specific restrictions, laid down by their law.

In India, 'Freedom of Speech and Expression' is controlled by 8 restrictions, *viz.:*

- Sovereignty and Integrity of India which is enforced to restrict activities that threaten the sovereignty of the country, such as alliance with foreign states to wage war, burning of the national flag *etc*.,

- Security of State, which means no state can tolerate activities that threaten the stability of an organised government by unlawful or unconstitutional means, giving aid to an enemy country, obstructing war activities *etc*.,

- Friendly Relations with Foreign States, based on the lines of International Principles/Conventions and mutual respect,

- Public Order, as minimum requirement in any organised society, and therefore to curtail any activity/ association that causes a state of disorder. Examples are restricted

use of sound amplifiers in public places, curbing hate speech, fake news *etc*.,

- Decency or Morality, so as to control activities that undermine public morals, such as child abuse, provocative publications *etc*.,

- Contempt of Court, enforced to secure public respect and confidence in the judicial process. Maintenance of dignity of courts is one of the cardinal principles of any democratic set up. A fair criticism is permissible but not scandalisation.

- Defamation, so that freedom of speech and expression does not entitle you to hurt others' reputation in the public sphere. Right to reputation is a fundamental right, implicitly specified in Article 21.

- Incitement to an Offence, *viz.* an act to persuade others to commit a crime; abetment or instigating a person to commit an offence.

These restrictions are subject to judicial review. Any democratic set up is expected to impose these restrictions only in a rare and exceptional case when the order of the state is under threat. One must not forget that this freedom is not absolute and should be exercised, keeping in mind the eight restrictions, which operate in the interest of the society.

In the last few years, social media, like Twitter and Facebook, has become the platform for freedom of speech and expression. Even during the lockdown, people used this right exponentially. But in the light of some recent incidents, it can be inferred that social media is no longer a neutral platform. Incidents like those of Cambridge Analytica, to the issue of regular data mining, polarisation, hate speech, and fake news have become a matter of grave concern. There is no control over the information on social media. Unlike the print and the electronic media, social media is not yet regulated by an external authority. Hence, they do not own any accountability for the content posted. For platforms like Netflix and Amazon, there is no accountability in the form of censorship of content, unlike the case of cinema-house screened movies.

The Supreme Court of India is considering the issue of accountability for social media. On the other hand, freedom of the press has always been kept at a pinnacle as an agency to promote healthy constructive democracy, till fake news became a serious threat. All these issues are pitted against Freedom of Speech and Expression. Therefore, fundamental rights are also subject to restrictions. Had there been no restraint, rights and freedom could threaten to become synonymous with anarchy and disorder. The complete interview can be watched in the link: https://youtu.be/fEsd3RYfX3o .

(Published in the January 2021 edition of PreSense)

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Exclusive Interview with Ms Priyanka Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament

In an exclusive conversation with Ms Priyanka Vickram Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament in the talk series, Aura,



Ms Priyanka shared her experiences in her journey to become a well-known politician, and a successful woman. Ms Priyanka Chaturvedi is also the deputy leader of her political party, Shiv Sena. She was earlier the national spokesperson of Indian National Congress before she quit.

We reproduce some of Ms Priyanka Chaturvedi's thoughts, shared in the conversation:

Ms Priyanka Joining Politics

As a mother of two, it was the 26/11/2008 Mumbai terrorist attack that triggered my zeal to join politics. Politics was an opportunity to be the change I was seeking.

My decision was an initial shock to my family. When I was getting into politics, I was advised that as a woman, I cannot have an impactful political career unless I came from a politically connected family or I was a well-established celebrity or someone with lots of money.

But my conviction, determination and perseverance impressed my family, the people and the public in general, so as to acknowledge and appreciate what I am, with my legitimate space in politics in the male-dominated arena.

Ms Priyanka in Politics

Politicians are viewed with suspicion by the public. You need to prove yourself and gain their confidence. It is important to be committed and grounded. Remember the 1.3 billion people in India and the 800 odd representatives in the Parliament. That is where you stand. With great power comes great responsibility. Your duty should be to strengthen the nation and its people.

Women in Politics

It is equally important for women to perform with utmost commitment. Consistently prove your worth, convince your family of your decision and ambition. Be persistent in your effort. When they see progress, the world is with you. And there is no compromise to your womanhood. Fighting for your dignity and self-respect is imperative and not a tradable commodity.

Women's Performance in Parliament

With their confidence and efforts, women MPs give a sense of purpose to younger women who look for a political career. Women have this amazing power of inspiring other women. Ms Supriya Sule, as the top performing MP,

encourages and inspires others with her personal commitment, positivity and openness to suggestions.

Managing Family and Politics

During my initial years, my daughter was just two years. I was trying to establish myself by burning the midnight oil. I did miss out on many important family events, but my husband, my children and my family gave me the strength to go after my calling for this nation. My husband and I shared the parenting responsibilities between ourselves, and today my kids are independent, mature and grounded with a strong value system.

Ms Priyanka's Strength Against Social Harassment

My self-respect is valuable. I cannot let my children see me as a leader from outside, and a broken person inside. So, I did not let go of those perpetrators of social harassment against me. This is a message to my son that he cannot behave badly with women, and for my daughter that she must never forget her core values.

After resigning (from the political party that condoned the perpetrators who harassed me), the options were to either end up as a failure who stood up for her dignity, or else try again in another political party which will respect me for what I am. I chose Shiv Sena, and I continue in my political career with many more achievements on the way!

Youth in Politics

This is the best time for youngsters to understand and learn about politics, and aspire, as almost every political party is looking for fresh blood and ideas. Young minds with the right spirit must govern this country. Tomorrow is yours. Believe in it!

Message to Men with Ambitious Women by their Side

Respect and support women for their choices. Be open to discuss their decisions and do not judge their abilities by conventional yardsticks. Treat them as equals and have conversations with them. Convince them that you are with them.

Prerequisites of a Good Politician

Empathy, staying grounded, patience, high emotional quotient, ability to stay connected with the people, and to listen. Communication should be clear. Create a narrative about yourself. The social media can help in effectively conveying one's opinion to the public. Always be aware of the others' ideologies. It helps in strengthening your own convictions. Prepare and be thorough in understanding the concept and background of any topic for debate or discussion.

The complete conversation can be viewed in the following link: https://youtu.be/nPyr9d14AEk.

(Published in the December 2020 edition of PreSense)

Panel Discussion: Ethics in Politics – Bhartruhari Mahatab MP and Justice A K Patnaik

"Legislation needed to regulate political parties and political funding" - Justice A K Patnaik



In the panel discussion under the segment, *Sangamam*, organised by this eMagazine PreSense, on 1st November 2020, Justice A K Patnaik urged the need for an immediate legislation to regulate political parties and political funding.

'Ethics in Politics' – Is it an Oxymoron?

PreSense and Prime Point Foundation in association with Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL) organise a monthly panel discussion with nationally renowned persons under

the series, *"Sangamam – Fusion of Great Minds*". On 1st November 2020, a panel discussion was held on the topic *"*Ethics in Politics*"*, moderated by Ms Priyadharshni Rahul, Deputy Editor of PreSense. Justice A K Patnaik (Retired Judge, Supreme Court) and Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab (sixth-time sitting MP from Cuttack, Odisha) were the expert panellists.

While introducing the subject, K. Srinivasan, Publisher and Managing Editor of PreSense, said that many people thought ethics and politics were an oxymoron. But he cited the example of great leaders across the nation like Dr Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Morarji Desai, Dr Hari Krishna Mahtab, Kamaraj, Rajaji, Kakkan and many others who practised ethics in their political life. It was only after the period of the 60s and 70s that ethics seemed compromised in politics, he added.

Why Erosion of Values in Politics?

Justice Patnaik said that freedom fighters, who were committed to the national cause, were participants in the legislatures and in the Government till 1960s. He added that it was thereafter that the new class of 'fortune seekers' began to join politics, leading to the erosion of values in politics.

Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab, concurred with the views of Justice Patnaik that a new class of politicians has emerged after the 1960s, with the sole aim to acquire power and earn money. They also interfered with the functioning of the civil administration to gain illegal benefits. Mr Bhartruhari

Mahtab quoted Dr Ashok Mehta, a well-known socialist leader who wrote in 1960 that people were rushing towards the political parties, which were expected to come to power.

Legislation Needed

Justice Patnaik observed that electoral politics has led to the collection of large amounts of funds. Therefore, political parties prefer people with a source of large funds. Over a period of time, the leaders themselves have become arrogant and do not follow democracy within their own party. He suggested legislation to regulate the political parties and political funding, along the lines of the UK, Australia, Germany, Cambodia, and South Africa, which have effective legislations in place. He insisted that internal democracy should also be included in the legislation.

Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab felt that in India, the enforcement of the law was weak and any amount of legislation would not help unless enforced effectively. He added that at present, details of funding of political parties cannot be sought through RTI (Right to Information). In response to this observation, Justice Patnaik said that unless there is a legislation, the Supreme Court, the High Courts and the Election Commission would not be able to enforce, when needed. Both agreed that funding of political parties should become transparent.

Dynastic Politics

Justice Patnaik said that he was not in favour of dynastic politics. If any family is good, they can come back to power

on their own. But he was not in favour of individual families controlling the political parties in India, as this was against the interest of democracy.

Agreeing with his views, Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab felt that complacency has developed in dynastic politics. Fortunately, people have become more demanding, and are more conscious of their rights. With the emergence of social media, people have better access to information. He added that the main challenge before politics was how to sustain a high standard of ethics, and do good for the society.

Advice to Young Politicians

Justice Patnaik appealed to youngsters to join politics, after ensuring they had a regular income base to maintain their families. He also appealed to the general public to be vigilant while exercising their votes, so that good people are elected to the legislature.

Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab welcomed the New Education Policy 2020, whereby children would be taught values and ethics from the primary school level. Honesty, gratitude, forgiveness and non-violence need to be taught and inculcated. That would help to build a strong nation.

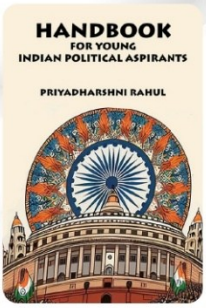
The discussion in full can be watched on https://youtu.be/cf_w2EKJrmM.

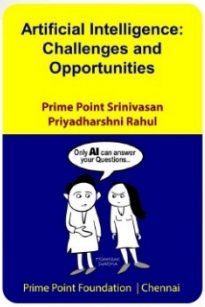
(Published in the November 2020 edition of PreSense)

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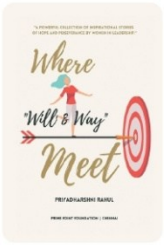
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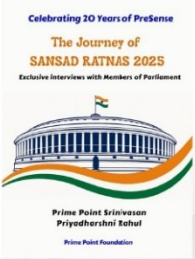
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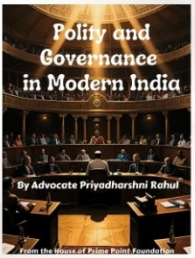


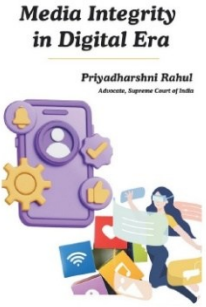


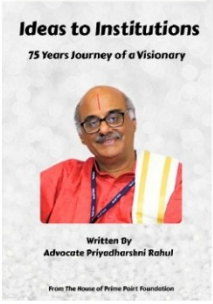


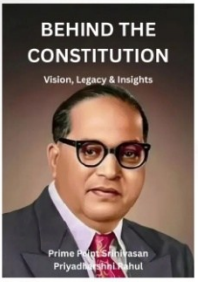












All the books were released by Constitutional Authorities, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Senior Bureaucrats, etc in our events. These books are free for circulation and are available as eBooks in the site of Prime Point Foundation.



Hon'ble Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju released the two books titled The Journey of Sansad Ratnas 2025 and Ideas to Institutions – 75 Years journey of a Visionary in July 2025 at Delhi. Shri Hansraj Ahir (Hon'ble Chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes) and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab MP (Hon'ble Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance) received the copies.



The book "Juvenile Justice System in India," authored by Priyadharshni Rahul, was released in August 2024 in Delhi by the Hon'ble MoS Education, Shri Sukanta Majumdar, and received by the Hon'ble MPs, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab and Shri Anurag Thakur.



The book on 'Media Integrity in Digital Era' was released during the National Media Conference held

at Mount Abu by Brahma Kumaris by Shri Krishna Prasad Tenneti, Honble Member of Parliament.



The book on women empowerment titled "Where the Will and Way meet" was released by Shri Hansraj Ahir (Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Backward Classes), Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal (Hon'ble Law Minister), Shri Sushil Chandra(Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India) and Dr Heena Gavit (Hon'ble Member of Parliament) during Sansad Ratna event.



The book titled "Artificial Intelligence – Challenges and opportunities" was released by Shri Rajasekar, IFS officer, during the National Media Conference held at Brahmakumaris, Gurgaon



The book titled "Handbook for Indian Political aspirants" was released by Shri Hansraj Ahir (Hon'ble Chairman, NCBC), Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan (Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Puducherry), Shri Ajay Mishra (Hon'ble MoS Home) in the presence of Hon'ble Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul (Former Judge, Supreme Court of India).



Shri T S Krishna Murthy (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India), Prof. Sudarshan Padmanabhan (Professor at IIT Madras) and Ms Rahana Ameer (Chair, CoLA – London Chamber of Commerce and Former Councillor, City of London Corporation) launched the book titled "Behind the Constitution – Vision, Legacy and Insights" in digital and audio format during the Constittuion Day celebrations 2025 held at Chennai.

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Our Publications

PRIME POINT

Some of our Publications



Prime Point Foundation has published more than 50 books in digital and print formats. All books are distributed free of cost. The books can be downloaded from the following link.

https://tinyurl.com/PPFpublication

About this Book

This book is the compilation of select articles authored by Priyadharshni Rahul in the eMagazine *PreSense* from 2020. She has authored many articles on a variety of subjects.

About the Author



Priyadharshni Rahul, Supreme Court Advocate with dual degrees in Political Science and Law plus a master's in psychology, Editor in Chief of PreSense and President of Prime Point Foundation, Digital Journalists Association of India, and Next Gen Political Leaders. A distinguished achiever from childhood—Duke of Edinburgh Award, President's Award, Prime Minister's Award for leading Tamil Nadu NCC at Republic Day 2005, and India's Youth Ambassador to UK—she has authored six books and received multiple recognitions, including the Dr Abdul Kalam Award of Excellence. She is a motivational speaker and writer. She has authored 10 books, including this book. She has received several awards, including Dr Abdul Kalam Internal Award and PRCI's National Award as Young Visionary. India Book of Records (IBR) has also recognised her services and included her in the world records.

She is the Central Government Counsel at the Supreme Court of India and the Assistant Standing Counsel for the New Delhi Municipal Corporation and Counsel for Municipal Corporation of Delhi. She is one of the busiest advocates in Delhi. She has been assisting many senior Parliamentarians, including Chairmen of Joint Parliamentary Committees on legal matters.

She is currently pursuing a PhD in Indian Parliamentary democracy.