



## From the Editor's desk: -Exciting Innings ahead -India 2007

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Worldwide historians acknowledge the fact that our Indian civilization dates back to 8000-10000 years but one would dare keeping it subjective and slate it to be much older. Because such a social structure cannot sprout in a day! But it would be logical to view India's development starting from 1947 timeframe. Thus she traveled 60 years a free country recreating a unique image in World Arena from being a closed economy to buzzing mixed open economy.

2006 in a lot of ways was very India centric be it growth, culture or geo-politically. Foremost being US recognizing India as a major N-power. Official acknowledgement makes lot of things easier enabling us to divert efforts in other areas of development! ISRO announcing its intent for Mars mission is testimony of the distance it has rocketed since its inception.

Global Indian acquisition can be termed as the highlight in corporate world! L N Mittal stands so does others in IT, Steel, Electronic firms stand out for their hunt! One could not have imagined initiating NASDAQ trading day from India! Diplomatically Tharoor put up a competent fight. China and Japan are closer now! Peace initiative with Pakistan maturing.

Inheriting her literary skill from her mother, Young & dynamic Kiran Desai wrote her way to booker prize. Moment to relish for Indian's! Indian Literature tasted global audience through German International Book

festival's sporting theme for 2005 - "India".

Sunita William's famous statement "If you believe in your dream it will come true" caught the imagination of millions of Indian youth. She will remain a living testimony of courage and perseverance.

Feather in the cap of course is our achieving 9% growth in first 6 months. But as economists warn we also need to take an "inclusive growth" as planning document refers besides sustainability!

No doubt 2007 is going to be more exciting and equally challenging! We all should be striving to use the current growth factor and bring lower strata also into the loop to enjoy fruits of success! **Even if we take a resolution to mentor one underprivileged child, we would go a long way.** So get set for the exciting year ahead. On being prepared for days ahead I am reminded of Dr.Kalam's reference in *Wings of Fire*

*For all your days prepare,  
And meet them ever alike;  
When you are the anvil, bear--  
When you are the hammer, Strike.*

Be the anvil of tolerance and strike development with confidence! Let us take a resolution to work for a greater India and a Developed India!

Jai Hind!!

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## Vande Mataram – Inside this ezine

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- India Vision – US Chapter details

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## Ignited Minds – Karthik Swaminathan

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We are a group of like minded extroverts with a will to serve the community. Our goals and objectives are to work towards the betterment of the society.

### 3E Framework

We aim at transforming the aspiring individuals into building blocks by providing the essential 3Es namely Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship. The Group represents that collection of thoughts in each individual's mind which constantly hope and crave of the betterment of the society we live in. When such sparks get together it forms Ignited Minds. This would be a group where in your ideas to improve the society would get discussed, enhanced and rolled into actions. The transition of the thoughts to action would be a dream getting realized. During the formation of the group we had discussed to enhance the 3Es (Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship) in a society which would make the society self-sufficient to meet its needs. This is very much the goal which is driving us. There have been a lot of ideas in store and few of them have been put into action.

### SERVICES

**HOPE (Help Other Persons Education)** aims at identifying financially challenged people and help them to complete their desired education. The help can be in the form of money or fulfilling any other needs. Through HOPE.



**WISDOM** initiative creates a library from where the students would be able to borrow books required for their education. This initiative again has been started off very well where in around 100 books have been collected and few students are already reaping the benefits of WISDOM.

### Platform for Partnership

India Vision acted as catalyst for a partnership between *India Sudar* and *Ignited Minds*, who have already executed a project and have many more to come.

***Ignited Minds join India\_Vision\_2020 group towards common mission!***

(Karthik can be reached at [ksn2k@hotmail.com](mailto:ksn2k@hotmail.com))  
<http://ignitetheminds.blogspot.com>

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## Interview with Dr.Mohan Rao



Dr.Mohan Rao is an accomplished Surgoen(retired). Setup Dr.Mohan Rao hospital chennai in 1995. Born in Udipi, he completed medicine in Stanley medical college, Chennai. Was an honorary surgeon, currently settled in Mysore. In an exclusive interview with India Vision group he shares his view!

**Q: As a doctor could you please share some unforgettable moments?**

**A:** Several incidents major and complicated surgery. One was when I myself performed an abdominal surgery for my mother. The next was a major surgery called Total Colectomy on a 70+ yrs man; surgery lasted for 8 hours. In our new Hospital there was no Generator when electricity failed **Surgery was completed using torch light!** This patient survived for several years after this surgery. It has been one of the most satisfying experiences. Another recent very stressful surgery is of a close relative lady about 70 years with serious heart disease.

**Q: India Vision –myth or reality?**

**A:** The Vision of India Vision 2020 is highly laudable. The ideas and actions that the group proposes to do needs to be spread widely over the whole nation. It is a long and difficult project and needs young people who can carry the torch over a period of several years with great persistence to make the dream a reality

**Q: View on Health Infrastructure?**

**A:** Healthcare in India is not streamlined. Available man power and facilities are not properly channelised. There are islands of excellence here and there; but by and large is hap-hazardly scattered and motivated

mostly for individual profit and gain. These Hospitals should be managed by well trained and motivated Administrators and probably better managed in private hands than the Govt. or at least Private and Govt. partnership.

**Q: Role of Doctors in Vision 2020?**

**A:** Medical professionals are now oriented to depend on modern gadgets to diagnose and not their clinical skills. The emphasis is on preventive aspects & nutrition. Medical ethics seems to be lacking in a large proportion of Doctors partly because of pressures of modern life but also because of the poor quality of medical teachers. The young doctor would follow the high ethical values of his mentor, if he is an outstanding person.

**Q: Are you a proud Indian?**

**A:** Am I a proud Indian? As far as Medical Profession is concerned there are many achievements by individual doctors which make one feel proud for India. But there few which worry me. But on a personal level, I have no regrets; I feel I have given a fairly "clean" and "efficient" service as a Medical Teacher, as a Practicing Surgeon following high standard of ethics in my entire career.

**Q: Message to the youth?**

**A:** The present day youth have to fight for the "present" to carry the torch of responsible citizenship. But for bright future they have to fight on behalf of the future generation; on behalf of young children, who cannot fend for themselves. Fight for child health, child labour, and universal literacy for disadvantaged children. Try and start "Rural Schools of Excellence" – boarding schools comparable to the best in the nation for the down trodden group. Big Corporate houses can be requested to start and manage these centers of excellence.

Dr.Mohan Rao can be reached : [mohanrao2005@gmail.com](mailto:mohanrao2005@gmail.com)

## Jatropha & energy security – Ravishankar

The nation's wheels are today largely moving by fossil fuels either of petroleum products or coal. The country imports about 70% of its petroleum demand. The tune of petroleum import is currently 600 billion Rupees (about 30% of total import bill) .India has to increase the per capita consumption of fuel oils several fold higher than the current Indian consumption levels.

### So what is Jatropha??

- Jatropha curcas L., is non edible & has many benefits over other seeds available in India.
- Jatropha is a perennial hardy shrub, drought resistant, grows extremely well even with low rainfall.
- Wonder crop for wastelands under rain-fed conditions, not browsed by cattle !!
- With little management it yields in ten months and generates adequate yield by 3<sup>rd</sup> year onwards, giving economic yield for 30 years.
- Oil extracted from the seeds of Jatropha is an ideal bio-fuel particularly after the trans-esterification process. The oil-cake is also a good manure, can be used as animal feed or for bio-gas production.
- The bio-glycerol which is a by-product can be used for pharmaceutical & cosmetic industries. -

### Bio-Diesel

- Dr.Rudolf Diesel, in 1895, used only vegetable oils in his engine and predicted the future dependence of seed based diesel
- Almost the same as Petro-diesel in terms of its physical & chemical characteristics.
- Trials results of the bio-diesel tests that have been conducted by IOC, ICAR, Indian railways and M & M are quite encouraging.
- Many states like AP, Chattisgarh, and Karnataka are among fore-runners in the country (in manufacture of Bio Diesel ????)
- The most remarkable feature of bio-diesel is that it gives a clear exhaust after combustion. It emits very less Carbon-di-oxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) which can very well be sucked by plants.



### Need of the hour!

- More Awareness
- Research for higher yield
- Government Policy
- Use same farmer who made India self-reliant in food for achieving energy security also !!

### Economic View

- can be grown in 63.8 million hectares presently available,
- Leads bio-diesel 2.7 times the requirement of petro-diesel.
- Apart from producing over 400 million tones of organic fertilizer Saves Rs.40,000 crores of foreign exchange.
- viable new option to crops which suffer from water stress.
- The rural employment opportunities envisaged - collection & storage of seeds, extraction of oil and decentralized power generation, thus also preserving our ecology.
- With an initial investment of about Rs.8000/-per acre, the net income to farmer after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year will be about Rs.12,000 per acre.

## Right to Information Act (Anand S) – part II

**Is there any fee? How do I deposit that?**

For Central Government it is Rs.10. However, different states have prescribed different fee. For getting information, you have to pay Rs.2 per page of information provided for Central Government Departments. Similarly, there is a fee for inspection of documents. There is no fee for first hour of inspection, but after that, you have to pay Rs.5 for every subsequent hour or fraction thereof. In some states, you can buy court fee stamps and affix it on your application. This would be treated as if you have deposited the fee. You can then deposit your application either by post or by hand.

**What should I do if the PIO or the concerned Department does not accept my application?**

You can send it by post. You should also make a formal complaint to the respective Information Commission under section 18. The Information Commissioner has the power to impose a penalty of Rs.25,000 on the concerned officer who refused to accept your application.

**Is there an application form for seeking information?**

For Central Government Departments, there is no form. You should apply on a plain sheet of paper like an ordinary application. However, many states and some ministries and departments have prescribed formats. You should apply in these formats. Please read rules of respective states to know

**How could RTI be implemented?**

[According to experts RTI Act 2005 is one of the most forward looking bills today among many countries. Ofcourse Act's annexure also lists exceptions to classified documents on grounds of national security]

*(Concluded in this issue – Anand can be reached at [anandh.sundaresan@wipro.com](mailto:anandh.sundaresan@wipro.com))*

RTI would force the system to start maintaining records properly now. Else the officials would face a penalty under the Act

**What can I do if I do not receive information?**

If you do not receive information or are dissatisfied with the information received, you can file an appeal with the first appellate authority under section 19 (1) of the right to Information Act.

**Who is a First Appellate authority?**

Every public authority must designate a First Appellate Authority. This officer designated is the officer senior in rank to your PIO.

**Is there a form for the first appeal?**

No there is no form for filing a first appeal (but some state governments have prescribed a form). Draft your appeal application on a blank sheet of paper addressed to the First Appellate Authority. Remember to attach a copy of your original application and a copy of the reply in whatever form (if received) from the PIO.

**Why should I use RTI?**

The entire system has become so rotten that if all of us individually and together do not do our bit, it will never improve. If we don't do it, who will? Therefore, we have to act. But we should do that with a strategy and minimize risks. And with experience, there are some safeguards and strategies available.



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## India Vision 2020 begins US Chapter !

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Mr Karthik Swaminathan, presently working at TCS, St. Louis, Missouri has volunteered to be the coordinator for India Vision Club at USA. The purpose of this club is to bring together all the like minded people and consolidate them.

Our India Vision Club will work in bringing together all the like minded people.

As usual, this Club will not undertake any activity of its own. But it would facilitate people to come together and to take up their own tasks. This Club will not also handle

any money. India Vision Club is a 'flat' organization and everybody will share the equal status.

Interested members in US may kindly get in touch with Mr Karthik through his email [ksn2k@hotmail.com](mailto:ksn2k@hotmail.com).

We cordially Invite our US Friends to join hands with us in the Mission - India 2020 !

*Mr Kathik may be reached at  
314 484 1315 (Mobile)  
314 731 3052 (Home  
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Join the India Vision group – click here

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/India\\_Vision\\_2020/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/India_Vision_2020/)

Blog site : <http://www.indiavision2020.org/blog/>



**PODCAST : Interview with Prof. Y S Rajan on PSLV C7 rocket launch**

Click here:

<http://poduniversal.blogspot.com/2007/01/what-is-significance-of-pslv-c7-rocket.html>

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