



From the Editor's desk: - "India re-born at 60 !! "

India is one of the longest known civilizations along with Sumerian and Mesopotamian. But all through its history, other than last 200 years was a consortium of smaller kingdoms. In 1947, *redeeming the pledge of freedom*, India started her Journey as a free democratic nation. Today we celebrate 60 yrs of its democratic existence.

While her contemporaries were struggling to find their feet, India bravely started the walk of development, gradually jogging, which now has evolved a sprint. India's stage today was not without her share of grief. But ever resilient spirit never let the destabilizing forces take control. Starting of 5 year planning and later 1991 economic liberalization to emergency, all taught us lessons.

What makes India tick? Is it the billion people, democracy, deep rooted cultural values, wealth, diversity? Well, it is mix of everything. The risk to her values and growth is well hedged against development. One of the most praised factors is the pluralism without shedding her unique identity.

No doubt India is a peace loving country. But she is very well aware of the threats posed to her National security and integrity. We will have to perform a delicate balancing act and not proliferate imagined fears. Scientific and Technological endeavour

should be guiding factor for the future. Religious values should moderate the ever evolving pluralism.

As we leave behind 60 yrs of start phase, time has come to look into future - say India @ 100 or India @ 150 yrs. The first phase after Independence was to lay the foundation for development. Apart from multipolar world order, India would also have to take new world order called "Globalization". The success and failure of future growth very much depends on how we deal with shrinking boundaries.

In next 50 Yrs, we youth see India as a developed nation. India Vision 2020 would be the first milestone in that process. It inspires all of us to work towards a India - which is developed in the sense gives all her citizens good healthcare, shelter, education, growth opportunities. Above all ensure growth trickles to all sections of the society - A poverty free India !!

India's story @60 is an inspiration to future developing world !! We are well aware of challenges ahead but not bogged down. All prepared for the exciting journey ahead.

Wish all our readers' happy Independence day.

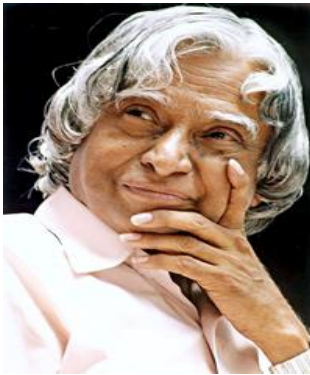
Vande Mataram!!

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Vande Mataram – Inside this ezine

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Exclusive Podcast of Dr.Kalam on 60th Indian I-Day



Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam in his extraordinary chat with our India Vision 2020 group Moderator Mr.Srinivasan, ignites our thoughts. In his unique simple ways, he outlines the profile for a "Developed India".

In this exclusive podcast for "Vandemataram", Dr.Kalam rekindles the idea of development amongst the youth of India. India Vision group is very proud in bringing this Podcast on the occasion of India's 60th Independence Day!

<http://tinyurl.com/22efsp>

Envisioning a set of goals for the Nation

The interaction starts with top 10 challenges as it stands today, after 60 Yrs of Independence. Dr.Kalam strikes a very positive approach in envisioning the points:

- 1) A nation where Rural-Urban divide is reduced to a very thin line
- 2) Equitable distribution of energy & adequate access to quality water
- 3) Agriculture, industry & service work together in symphony
- 4) Nation where quality education with value system is not denied to any meritorious student because of societal or economic discrimination.
- 5) Nation which is the destination for the best of scholars
- 6) Best of healthcare to all
- 7) Governance that is responsive, transparent & corruption free.
- 8) Nation with poverty totally eradicated, Illiteracy removed and crime against children, women absent and None in the society alienated.
- 9) Nation which is prosperous, healthy, peaceful & that sustains growth path.
- 10) Nation which is best in the world to live and proud of its leadership

Thoughts to Media

- 1) Accuracy of news reported.
 - 2) Report real-time rural conditions such as weather for farmers, fishermen. Also give farmers info on best seed variety in the market.
 - 3) Describe life pattern of Farmers, Fishermen, craftsmen, their seasonal needs. Celebrate their success & discuss their problems.
 - 4) Report on performance of Pancahayat and especially about women panchayat leaders.
 - 5) Discuss the problems of rural roads, water body conditions.
 - 6) Perceived isolation in North East should be removed by celebrating their success and appreciate their leaders vision.
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Ten point oath for the youth of the Nation

1) I realize I have a set a goal in life; acquire knowledge and work hard to achieve; when problem occurs I will defeat it

2) I will work with courage to achieve success in all my tasks and enjoy success of others



3) I shall always keep myself, my home, and neighborhood clean and tidy

4) I realize righteousness in the heart leads to beauty in character; Beauty in character leads to harmony in the home; Harmony in the home leads to order in the Nation which in turn leads to peace in the world.

5) I will lead an honest life, free from all corruption and will set an example to others including my home to adapt the righteous way of life

6. I will light the lamp of knowledge in the Nation and ensure that it remains lit forever

7. I realize that what ever work I do, if I do the best, I am contributing towards realizing the vision of Developed India 2020

Oath for the Children of the Nation

Interaction with children has been a hallmark of Dr.Kalam. Here is the highlight of the points for children:

1) Must excel in education leading to achieving high aims.

2) During holidays teach 5 people in neighborhood who cannot read & Write

3) Plant 5 saplings in school or home

4) Clean home & clean neighborhood

5) Meet great human beings, so that they will acquire their great qualities

6) Take care of your grand parents & children. Make them happy

7) Make good books as your friends



Dr. Abdul Kalam can be reached through his new website :

<http://www.abdulkalam.com>

Return of a bygone Intellectual era – Revival of Nalanda



Bill gates defined IIT as:

"Put Harvard, MIT, and Princeton together, and you begin to get an idea of the status of this school in India."

In the same tone to define "Nalanda" -
 "Put 10's of IIT's together & you might start getting the idea of how nalanda was!!"

Nalanda (in Bihar) was built during the ancient Gupta period. It's alumni boasts to many intellectuals like Chanakya, ChandraGuptaMaurya, Huen-Tsang, Charaka, Susruta, Nagarjuna & many more Buddhist scholars. Breadth of the subjects dealt was lengthy - Philosophy, chemical, structural engg, astronomy, geometry, logic, music, literature, material science...

Believed to have been a city unto itself, like today's Oxford or Cambridge! One of the historical evidence of how advanced out intellect was. Scholars were gifted with an oceanic library adding to other sea of options!

Nilanjana Roy in her Article "Invisible Indian Library" mentions:

"There were at least three separate libraries: Ratnasagara, Ratnadadhi and Ratnaranjaka. "

The cost analysis is interesting:

"Creating and running an institution like Nalanda wasn't cheap. It required, according to some accounts, "the revenues of 100 villages"—a sum not so far removed in scale from the bequests of \$2.4 million and \$5.2 million made respectively by Samuel J Tilden and Andrew Carnegie for New York Public Library"

A quick estimate in the Indian context. The total budget of IIT's put together amounts to 2000 Cr per year! It is roughly \$45M! And can easily cover Income Tax collection of a state like TamilNadu or Karnataka!!

When I read about Nalanda as a student, I was immediately attracted by it! In years to come it would refuse to go away from my memory, ultimately cherishing the Dream of "Reviving it one day if I had the power!!"

Recent news of it's revival definitely raised our Spirits! What more, it is expected to generate revenue for 200 villages surrounding Nalanda! That's neo-economics @ work!! Mind its potential: "Will it become next Cambridge" ??

This step is an important in the context of today's Knowledge economy! As of "Nalanda" we would wish it to be part of "Great Indian Legacy" than just another world class learning centre!! Hope dreams will come true!!

Dr.Kalam will teach in Nalanda soon!

Interview with Mr. Ganesh – NGO Manager



Ganesh Ramachandran works for *Christian Aid* as their Compliance Manager, at their International HQ London. He has

been associated with the Indian NGO sector for the last 11 years. Started his work in *Latur Maharashtra* (Earthquake Rehabilitation and further in Central India tribal belt (Maha, M. P, Orissa). Worked in Orissa Cyclone programme initial phase before he took up overseas work in Balkans, Afghanistan, Central Asia, East Africa and then moved to HQ in London.

1) Can you tell me what motivated you to get into Charity/NGO business?

I started my career at age of 17. I was looking at an avenue to make a living, but when I got my first work in Latur, Maharashtra, it changed the entire outlook. I was more fascinated to work for NGO as it brought me a sense of satisfaction, feeling and able to see how my work brought change to some people in a positive way, which I was not sure if other professions could give me.

2) How did your family react to your career choice?

“Shock” is an apt word. I had to accept, for years my family never understood what I was doing. Lot of them were very critical about the work of NGOs. They always felt that we talked about issues for hours together and did nothing. Tsunami made them realise what exactly we do.

3) How was the opportunity like in NGO sector? Did you face difficulties in getting into International Development?

The opportunity in the NGO sector is huge but then it was much limited

until early 2000 for Indians. The reason was that we always concentrated inwards and didn't want to get associated NGO deeds with the wider international community. Things have changed in the past 5 years and we have seen many Indians head International NGO's.

4) Is India Vision 2020, a Myth or Reality?

I strongly agree it's a reality, things have changed, and the present generation is far more advanced than all of us. In all fields we see today's youth outshining and getting name for our country. Today's youth are very proud of their identity and country.

5) Role of Youths in India Vision 2020?

Youth are the future of India; they are the ambassadors for tomorrow's India. India is ready for the challenge; we have proved internationally that anything is possible by Indians. Youth should spend more time learning about world history, economics; social issues faced by today's world and try to have a broader worldview. If it took 100 years for America to become like this, for us Indians it would take just 20 years.

6) Are you proud to be an Indian?

Yes very much, I have always kept my head up living and traveling as Indian. Indian passports require visa to most countries in the world, most of the time my passport is in the embassy applying for visa. But then it has never been a problem or have I ever felt that it's a disadvantage. The best passport to carry across the world is the Indian, the country with rich culture, values and long history!

Jai Hind!!

(Ganesh can be reached at: rganesh7@yahoo.com)

Science Parks- Fostering Inventions in India



India has had great minds such as S C Bose, Ramanujan, Sir C.V.Raman, Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai etc., whose contributions shaped the human kind in so many ways.

A question that arises in my mind: For how long do we continue to bathe in past glory? How do we continue that trend Or to rephrase, what lacks with the current generation of India to make new inventions?

Probably, only bookish knowledge is gained from schools and also that Students focus more on scoring marks rather than applying the concepts learnt in a creative manner?

If we create an environment such that every student (in school and higher education) can 'study' the concepts well and 'apply' the concepts in a creative manner, then we can expect more inventions and innovations from India.

An intellectual property is definitely a more valuable asset to a country, than any other tangible asset that you could think of. So, how to create this environment?

Science Parks are an answer!!

What do Science Parks have?

A Science park is a collection of interactive play models which helps a student to realise how the scientific principles studied in classroom can be practically used in real life.

How does a Science Park help in fostering inventions & innovations?

Science parks help in understanding the scientific principles better
The student gets to know how to apply the concepts learnt – gets a practical knowledge rather than mere bookish knowledge
Kindles Students' minds in thinking creatively
Fosters innovation

How to implement a Science Park?

There are many science park gadget manufacturing companies in India. Just Google to find one and you can reach them to implement a Science park.

How can I contribute to this noble cause?

Talk to your school, where you studied, about Science parks. A good idea would be to suggest your school's Rotaract / Interact Clubs to bring together all the schools in the same city to construct a good quality science park for the city. The school Alumni, various industries in the city and the local government could contribute to this noble cause and the city would get a beautiful science park which would enlighten thousands of young minds, who are the future of India.

Why should I contribute to this?

By taking a step in constructing science parks, you are helping in building a technically strong India. What we do today will definitely impact the future generations. So, let us take some steps in shaping up the future of India, in a positive way!

JAI HIND!

You can reach the author at:
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UK NRI's outlook of today's India – Subha Ganesh

In the last 60 years India has grown significantly. The entire world is looking at us with a renewed respect and fear, as they know our strength more than ourselves.

Is India Vision 2020 a reality or a myth? We at 'Vandemataram' wanted to understand what NRI's living in UK think about India Vision 2020. We did a study and found that the NRI's of today living in UK are very proud to be Indians and are very confident that given 100% commitment India can develop. They do have their own worries, like corruption, political influence etc. but overall they are having the same dream like any of us, of a developed India.

NRI feel that India's strength is our manpower, culture, tradition, patriotism and most important of all, our curve to prove ourselves to the world. They say that India is always open to new ideas and technology and Indian youth are quick to



adapt to the change and enhance their knowledge for a better future.

They feel that India Vision 2020 is a reality and it can be achieved if all Indians work together for better results. NRI feel that their main contributions for the India Vision will be to remain positive and encourage our people to do their best by providing an insight and exposure into International environment, and also invest monetarily for modernization of our country.

So now it's our chance to join hands together and prove to the world that 'Yes we can'!

(Subha can be reached at Subha.touch@googlemail.com)

"If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India!"

French scholar Romaine Rolland

"So far as I am able to judge, nothing has been left undone, either by man or nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds. Nothing seems to have been forgotten, nothing overlooked." - Mark Twain

Join the India Vision group – http://groups.yahoo.com/group/India_Vision_2020/

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