



From the Editor's desk – India Vision an integrated Platform

Welcome to this edition of our ezine. We are happy about our reach and wish to reach even wider. Right from start we have ensured optimism as the minimum goal.

Luck made a date with us this month when the opportunity to meet Dr.Kalam presented itself. Main goal of the meeting was to brief about our India Vision platform and explain our action. For quite some time now we had wanted to meet him and express our gratitude to our "Beloved Guru" himself for inspiring many youth to aspire a developed India. But it turned out that to be even greater event for all of us who met him.

One thing which stuck us all is his characteristic modesty and child like enthusiasm. Every word we spoke were keenly absorbed by him with short clarifying questions. A gratifying but unexpected fruits we quite enjoyed.

We now realize that we carry far more responsibility than we had before. As we had mentioned countless times earlier India Vision 2020 is not just a dream. In Dr.Kalam's words "A mission we all can accomplish". It has no preset rules, no boundaries. Idea is to work in one's own way towards nation's development. Freedom is there to exercise any option one feels comfortable with and has the core competence. But at the same time a coordinating platform becomes imminent.

India Vision group today enters into a new stage. The platform we had set before is set to expand with more partner groups likely joining us. Idea is to commit ourselves together without losing individual identity but work towards our common mission – A developed India.

India Vision today has many dedicated individuals and groups who are working silently but tirelessly to give shape to this "Great Indian Dream". Our mission would be to get more like minded groups onboard to show that an effective change has started to take place. Our generation should take a lot of pride in carrying forward India into a new development path.

The message we would like to carry forward is everyone has a role to play however different it may be. But every action counts !! Come join us ! Time has come to start a social movement !

We invite all our readers to dream big and succeed in their missions!

Keep in your comments coming.

Vande Mataram!!

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Dream Meeting with Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam !!



Opportunities knock at our doors anytime, but it is imperative that we are prepared for it. Most of the times it enters when you least expect. Our meeting with our beloved leader Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam is an excellent instance we can think of.

We were told before a week of July 24th that India Vision Partner organisations have got an opportunity to meet him at eleven in Raj Bhavan - Chennai. The excitement and anxiety was crossing its thresholds and we were all set to meet our source of inspiration. The first surprise news that came was the meeting was not 11.am but at 11.pm!!

On the day of appointment few of us had even come by 8:30 PM. At first surprised, later the security personnel asked us to wait outside.(Usually no one even is even allowed to stand 20-30 meters outside Raj Bhavan. Eventually we had a mini meeting outside with all our partners before going in at about

10:30 pm. After being served hot tea, we were taken through a maze of rooms finally into a bigger room (We really doubt if it should be called a room is different story). It merits special mention that he sincerely honored his commitment to meet us even though there were atleast 30 people besides us ! Later they all would be envying that he was discussing with us for almost an hour!

11 members of our Partner organisations representing Suyam, Manam Malarattum, Nandanar Trust, India Sudar, Dream India, Young Helping Minds, Team Everest, Vandemataram ezine and the co-moderators of this group were part of the team. The people waiting for first appointment were called in. The heart beat started increasing by now and my goodness we started counting the minutes as well. By 12.15 we were asked to enter the room.

As we entered the room a warm and welcoming smile invited us. Instant query was that if we all had our dinner. Excitement had peaked by the time we entered the room and he had asked us all to sit. Few of us just sat on the carpet. After all we were all flying , did that matter ??

Our first encounter with Dr.kalam was about to begin. Details of it are in following pages. Not in the wildest of imagination we would have stretched that we will have such a golden opportunity as this. Highlight was he had given a patient but very shrewd hearing of all

our activities and never hesitated to fire off a question to clarify his doubts. Sometimes even asking questions like - " How many arteries are there in our human body??"

If not for the interruption by the security personnel reminding him of his next appointment he would not have relieved us. Coming out we all felt that the only we can show our gratitude is to step up the actions all our groups. We are looking forward to more productive developments. Stay tuned !!

The "kalam Effect" – Instant Impact !!

Here are instant reactions given by few of us who met Dr.Kalam on 24th(should we say 25th !! of July 2008)

"When we all came out of Raj Bhavan, we all felt that we have more greater responsibility, than before. With Dr Kalam as a 'mentor' for all of us, and with spirited young and vibrant team of young members, I personally feel that India is in safe hands. We can feel proud that we are living in the era of Dr Kalam"

- K.Srinivasan, Moderator , India Vision 2020

"The one thing that kept me thinking was his sincerity. All the seven partner organisations handed over their 'brief note' of their activities. He went through these notes carefully. He said that he has got a lot of homework from us (!) and he has to work on it to us give directions. We understood that here is where the depth in his words comes from".

- Jayasree, Editorial board , Vandemataram



" I am really charged up after seeing Dr.Abdul Kalam . I first shook hands with him and gave the Notes of Activities of YHM . He went through it very sharply then i explained the activities of YHM he was really impressed .I even made a proposal with Dr.Kalam i have been working for this for 2 years .On 15th October the birthday of Dr.Kalam i wanted to bring all the less blessed children's together in a programme."

- Kalam Nagappan, Founder Young Helping minds

"24th night, technically July 25th, 2008 Friday, I should say is "THE" moment of DI. The flower that blossoms every second in each and everyone of our heart, the one in our blood and breath was offered to God's feet! Still living on the memories of it"

- Natarajan Raman, Trustee, Dream India

"Thanks a lot for for the golden opportunity. It was the greatest moment in my life and the meeting went 1000 more times than expected. It was really great, inspiring and hair-rising experience. I could not believe myself while we were sitting and interacting with him. Feel like I have got Dr. KALAM AWARD yesterday"

- Ravi Kumar, Trustee, India Sudar

Meeting with Dr. Kalam – Key Takeways



Our interaction with Dr.Kalam touched many aspects ranging from development to family values, youth in politics, education in India. While reproducing the whole is near to impossible, we given the reader's the final message for them to benefit.

a) **To a question related to imparting good values to**

children: Sir responded: It is why I keep telling the importance of moral science class. We should have moral science class for an hour every week from 1std to college level. Those days we had such classes and it really helps one to learn the real values of life.

b) **About vocational training:** Sir himself said at one point, " Many of our children reach till 10th or +2 [he refers that as 10+2]

and then stop continuing the education. So we should make sure skill based training should be given from 5th standard." We mentioned about vocational training and sir said, yeah that should be the way as it help them earn. [Sir, looked at my eyes while explaining this for almost a minute or two, I was actually wondering all that was happening was true really:)]

c) **About politics:** Ravi asked this question. Should youth enter politics. Sir said, "yes very well. We need people like you to be in the parliament. Only then we would be able to see a developed nation". At this point, I asked, " But Sir, in today's politics people use force to even kill us if we want to do good". Sir responded, " When we are a group, we can certainly do it. See, there is two kind of politics, one if "political politics" – to build your party, do it 30% of time and other is "developmental politics " – this one is for the nation and should be done 70% of time. Unfortunately, it is in the reverse now. Already I have seen that there are 30% MP's are graduates. So you people can certainly do it. Always believe you can do it".

d) **Library:** One of friends mentioned this idea about setting up libraries, Sir responded: This is a wonderful idea and even I have this mission. We should certainly do this. I have given my books to 30 or 40 libraries as well. [apply warning b here]

e) **About parents and teachers** at one point [guess at the time of "Kalam" Nagappan briefing, Sir's first question to him was, "What did your father tell about changing the name?"]: One should always go by parents words. Father, Mother and Guru are the one we should respect all through our life.

After the briefing of all the groups, Dr.APJ said the following.

Dr.APJ : All of you have given me a lot of home work. [referring to the documents we all gave and the details], I will read them and for sure we will work together definitely. I am very happy to have met you all today. **We need 1000 young people like you, we can definitely make India a developed nation.** Next time around, I would like to spend one complete day with you people. Now tell me, you people have done all these things for me, what should I do for you guys? :-)

All of us: [would be hard to believe, but true] We just need your blessings Sir!

Dr.APJ : God bless you all. [at this moment, almost all of us took his blessings by touching his feet. Now u know why I chose the carpet area;)] I want you all to repeat something with me...can we?

Dr.APJ: I have another one as well. Will u repeat this hymn? ok, come on...[we all repeated]

***"Where there is righteousness in the heart
There is beauty in the character.
When there is beauty in the character,
There is harmony in the home.
When there is harmony in the home.
There is order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation,
There is peace in the world."***

[After the hymn, by this time the security personnel were requesting us that it has been almost 50 minutes already]

Mr.Srinivasan: Sir, what is the message you want to convey to India Vision2020?

Dr.APJ : [I got this golden chance of holding the microphone to record Dr.APJ Sir's message, thanks to Srinivasan sir!]
[per se]

"The youth of the nation have a mission, the mission to bring smiles to the faces of one billion people. How to go about this mission? One should have following four qualities.

- 1) Very high ambition
- 2) Acquire the knowledge
- 3) Hard work and
- 4) Perseverance

By having high ambition and acquiring the knowledge by hard work and perseverance one can achieve this mission. This is the message I want to give for India Vision2020".

Natarajan: Sir, one last question. Whom do you think is the reason behind all your success and made you what you are today?

Dr.APJ Sir: It was my school teacher in 5th standard, Shri. Sivasubramanya Iyer. He is the one who made me [*the security people lost it completely as it was almost 1.05 A.M and requested us to conclude the meeting*]

After this, all of us thanked Dr.APJ Sir and he once again wished us all the best and mentioned that he was very happy to have met us. Again, Dr.APJ Sir promised that we would work together. With this, we all walked out of the temple with no heart to leave the darshan.

Re-live the moments of our meeting with Dr.Kalam

Listen to the podcast

<http://www.poduniversal.com/2008/07/dr-abdul-kalams-exclusive-message-to.html>

Also do not forget to see the photos :

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/prpoint/sets/72157606362910746/detail/>

India Vision 2020 Group – Integrated Platform for development

India Vision 2020 group is an e-group started by K.Srinivasan, (Chairman , Prime Point Foundation) with the aim of providing a platform to spread, discuss, create a positive environment. The group strictly prohibits cynicism which we believe is present in abundance and need no further elaboration. Armchair suggestions totally not entertained. Our motto is to spread the seeds of India vision 2020 ignited by Dr.A.P.J Abdul Kalam.

The group is 2000+ strong Ignited souls, especially the youth.

Main aspects of our India Vision 2020 group are :

- ✓ Though not a registered group we provide a platform for like minded people with many ideas/options for them to choose & act upon.
- ✓ In the context of development of Vision 2020 principles, the group is free to indulge in creating awareness, activities through our partner groups.
- ✓ eZine *Vandemataram* is being published since Aug 2007 to create awareness on India's development.
- ✓ Group has various chapters at Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, US, UK & Europe. We take pride in bringing Indians from all over the globe on a single platform.

Partner Group – A mode of Integration

Action is the key to any great idea becoming a reality. Our stress also has been to translate any good idea into development. To enable this we have a few organizations as our partner groups.

Dream India
India Sudar
Manam Malarattum
Nandanar Trust
SAIGM foundation
Suyam Trust
Team Everest
Young Helping Minds



We are confident to bring more like minded groups into the platform to enable all of us to contribute towards our mission – "India Vision 2020". We realize working as a team brings greater good and integrated action enables complex issues to be broken down into simpler solutions. Hope is to enable that!!

"India Vision 2020 group pledges all our efforts for a developed India by leading from the front and create an environment for all to participate.

Jai Hind!!"

Join India Vision group

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/India_Vision_2020/

Visit our website: <http://www.indiavision2020.org/>

Brief Summary of Partners of India Vision 2020 Group

Dream India 2020 (www.dreamindia2020.org)

Dream India educational and charitable Trust started in 2004 by enthusiastic group of young professionals mostly from IT with aim of doing their bit to the society. Mainly based in city of Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore or rural areas of their respective states. Has 500+ members.

Vision

To see an India free of poverty and illiteracy where the poor are empowered, an India where the bridge between the poor and the rich is within acceptable limits, an India in which every other educated soul understands the importance of giving back what he has taken from the society. And that this makes India go from strength to strength.



On Going activities:

- ✓ Conduct weekend classes for poor children across India.
- ✓ Conduct personality development classes for the corporation school children.
- ✓ Provide financial support for higher and primary education for economically weak students.
- ✓ Conduct various awareness campaigns like Anti Child begging and health camps.
- ✓ Working towards the goal of having DI's own school.

India Sudar Charitable & Educational Trust (www.indiasudar.org)

India Sudar was promoted in the year 2004 by the young Indians who wish to envision the well developed, self supported and peaceful India, where there is no digital divide. India Sudar dedicates itself in providing education to everyone in this country. Has 500+ members.



Vision : Developing a powerful India by providing Education

Mission : Aims at providing education aid to orphan and poor children.

- Enhances their capabilities by organizing socio-cultural

development programs.

- Aids in developing self-morality among the children.

Main focus activities are :

- ✓ India Sudar has deployed teachers at 38+ sites including orphanages, rural centers and government schools.
- ✓ Providing books, notes, stationeries, bags, uniforms and other academic needs.
- ✓ Conducting seminars, self-development programs, cultural programs, quiz programs and career development programs.
- ✓ Providing complete training through India Sudar Computer Training Center at free cost
- ✓ Main value addition is administrative cost of "Zero".

Area of activity is in 4 southern states of India, TamilNadu, AndhraPradesh, Karnataka , Kerala besides Pondicherry. For **the past 4 years they have reached 10,000+ children**. Mission 2008 will be to expand , especially to Northern eastern states.

Manam Malarattum Trust

A group of youth in Tirupattur of rural district Vellore, Tamilnadu decided to do something to society. Seeing lack of good educational facility for the underprivileged, they formed together "Manam Malarattum" trust. 100's of students have benefitted so far.



Vision : To Provide quality education to rural underprivileged at affordable cost

The group identifies meritorious students from underprivileged background and give them the extra push required to make them achieve in their set goal of education. This is done at absolutely free cost to the students.

Currently they have **established a free learning centre** for the rural poor , but very meritorious students. They are selected and trained in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for enhanced performance in exams. This also gives students a chance to compete with highly competitive urban students
Details of the this good work can be found at :

<http://indiasudar.wordpress.com/2008/03/18/visit-to-tirupatturvellore-district/>

Future plan is **to start a model school for underprivileged at Tirupattur** to cater to Vellore, Krishnagiri & Dharmapuri districts of Northern TamilNadu.

Suyam Charitable Trust (www.suyam.org)

SUYAM Charitable Trust started and formally registered under Trust Act in August 1999 by a group of young college students experienced social workers, who were in this service field since 1987, SUYAM Charitable Trust works to:

- Support youth in education , & develop their social conscience
- Work with poor communities and improve their lives
- Network with institutions and individuals and leverage them for project support & etc

Siragu is a learning space for children and aiming to provide international Quality education to the poorest of the poor. Majority of the children are first generation learners. **Siragu now have 265 children and 32 dedicated staff members with a beautiful family system**

Projects associated with Suyam are :

- ✓ Education Center and Digital library functioning in Akkaraipettai, Nagapattinam
- ✓ Education Center in Karaikkal (Pondichery UT)
- ✓ Education Center in Vanavanmahadevi (Velankanni)
- ✓ Tailoring unit under Women Empowerment Program at Chennai



Suyam was recently **judged as 2nd best NGO's by Akzo Nobel, Netherlands** who has the second biggest CSR group in the world.

Team Everest (<http://teameverest.wordpress.com/>)

A team of 2000+ youngsters who have joined hands to serve our mother land. The group has been largely working in Tamilnadu identifying needs for well deserving but economically backward. They are involved in more than 140 projects for providing education to various rural children

Vision

- ✓ To help the needy.
- ✓ To give opportunities for others to serve the needy.

Goal is attained by following activities

- Help for Education - No one in this world should stop education because of financial barriers. (slogan for Education)
- Motivation - A good leader is the one who creates more leaders, not followers. We need to motivate youths in order to create leaders. - (Slogan for Motivation)
- Visits to Orphanage - No one in this world is an orphan until we are alive!!! (Slogan for orphanage kids)
- Old age home visits - The one who send his parents to old age home cannot be a good citizen. Let us start making good citizens and share our love with the senior citizens in old age homes. (Slogan for our senior citizens)



Team Everest have started a new initiative - "**Everest Positive**". Those who **subscribe** for Everest Positive will get an e-mailer whenever we come across any positive news in the media. They have formed a core team with 15 members, to collect the positive news from various newspapers and magazines which will be shared with more than 1800+ people.

Young Helping Minds[YHM](www.younghelpingminds.org)

A set of self-motivated youngsters(mostly students) **started YHM seeing a young Physically challenged boy Saravanan finding difficult to study due to financial constraint**

.They decided to collect the money from the student community and help the needy .Presently they support 100 students and 75 working people as members .25/- is collected from the students and 100/- from the working people . Our main aim is INDIA 2020 we believe that it can achieved only through education for ALL. Benefit has reached 100's of students.



Activities

- ✓ The main project of YHM is VELICHAM ("light in" Tamil) Under which poor students are selected and required help done to ensure their education. 30+ students are supported by this initiative.
- ✓ YHM has conducted a 2 blood donation camp in ambattur on March 2007 and January 26th 2008. In 2007 camp around 125 people participated in it and 67 units of blood were collected. In 2008 camp around 75 participated and 49 units were collected.
- ✓ YHM regularly conducts Competition for the children's in ashram .The details are

- October 2nd 2006 – Mahalakshmi Foundation ,Avadi
 - December 25th 2006 – Balagurukulam , Pudur
 - November 14th 2007 – Mahalakshmi Foundation ,Avadi
- ✓ YHM also conducts regular visits to the ashram in and around ambattur and Avadi (Chennai) every Sunday. The members of YHM spend their valuable time with the children's in the ashram playing and singing, besides teaching.

Future Plans

- ✓ Cycle rally Against Child labour
- ✓ Cleaning of our marina Beach
- ✓ Planting trees in the ashram were YHM visits regularly
- ✓ Starting a School for the poor students
- ✓ To help more students under the Vellicham project
- ✓ To support the Blind people working in the trains

Nandanar Trust – Working for Dalit upliftment



Founded by Periaswamy from Perambalur district of Tamilnadu. Periaswamy was once actively involved in Naxalite movement. He was given death sentence by the judiciary. During his prison days, he read lot of spiritual books. His mind got changed. Fortunately High Court relieved him from the charges.

Now he is running 60 learning centres in 60 villages in Perambalur and Cuddalore Districts. These coaching centres function in the evening between 6 pm and 8 pm. Periaswamy is a Dalit.

All the centres are located in Dalit slums. More than **3500 children are the beneficiaries**. Besides he is also running a tailoring coaching centre for dalit girls free of cost. Mr Sudarshan, Chairman of Zylog Systems Limited, an Indian Multinational Company has started helping him financially for these projects. Shortly, he is going to open a **computer training** centre to provide computer education for dalit **children free of cost**.

SAIGM Foundation – Food & health care for needy

Established in Oct 2006 by Arvind Thyagarajan – an entrepreneur by profession

Mission:

- ✓ To cultivate universal harmony and unity by the provision of food, medical and other critical services to impoverished individuals in rural, isolated communities.
- ✓ To promote the moral advancement of all of humanity through the implementation of initiatives created to ensure the continuous supply of food and services for needy.

✓

Activities

- ✓ SAIGM provides free food and free health care in around 200 villages. Benefitting 12,000/month
- ✓ Last year, 1.30 lakh people got the benefit of free food and 82000 people got the benefit of free health care.

