

## From the Publisher's desk



Our India Vision Partner organizations had a unique opportunity to meet with Dr Abdul Kalam at Pollachi, in a function organized by "Together We 99", a partner organisation of India Vision Group. During the conversation, Dr Kalam was expressing his concern that many of our youngsters are employment seekers. He suggested that some of them should be motivated to be employment generators.

On behalf of India Vision Group, we plan to organize a National Seminar at Chennai to motivate the youngsters in this direction and to develop the entrepreneurial skills. When India is moving forward in the world

market, we need to prepare our youngsters for employment generation also.

Another important phenomenon, we see is the involvement of youngsters in the social development. When compared to the earlier decade, now, we find lot of students and employed professionals take active role in associating with genuine NGOs for supporting the poor people. We would like to project them as 'Unsung Heroes' in the India Vision group, to motivate others also to join the social commitment.

Let us together make a vibrant and developed India. Jai Hind

**K.Srinivasan, Prime Point Foundation  
Publisher, Vande Mataram e-zine.**

## From the Editor's desk – Hope lies in our Unsung Heroes

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

Last month, it was a surprise meet with Dr.Kalam at a function. The meet also gave us contacts with many social entrepreneurs. It was very heartening to see many such initiatives by many isolated groups.

Isolation is just a physical phenomenon in space but not in time. *"There is no stopping for the idea whose time come"* – So goes the saying. India Vision 2020 is an idea whose time has come. Many who presented their work at the seminar focused on this aspect.

India Vision 2020 is not just a theory. In Dr.Kalam's words, "A mission we all can accomplish". It does not have any preset

rules or pre-drawn ideas. Any idea which can empower and enhance the quality of Indian people is Vision 2020.

We see a lot of example around us who work silently towards society. India Vision group takes a lot of pride in identifying such "Unsung Heroes". Each hero has their own script, but a common goal – "To Serve". If one is to search for hope one can find it in heroes like this. Arokiya Das is one such hero. Enjoy reading about his work.

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

*Vande Mataram!!*

**Editorial Team**

## Interview with Arokya Das- Founder 'Snegidhan' Trust



### **A little background about yourself:**

I was born in a very poor family. Lost my father very early. My mother being also differently-abled, left world after sometime. I and my sister were left to my grandmother who took care of us. Those were tough times, when we used to even wash the top leaves of cabbages which were removed in the vegetable market. Our idea was never to depend on anybody. Hence early life also made me strong.

### **How did you support yourself then?**

My grandmother used to take care of me during my childhood. Since I was differently-abled, people ignored me saying I could not do any work. But my sheer determination made to learn a lot of things. In my teens I joined a small electric shop as assistant. By the time I left the shop in 2 years I could assemble a motor, repair it, and do rewinding.

### **Your experience with AIDS awareness.**

After my stint in electric shop I also joined a private company as assistant. Seeing my work, my boss suggested that I take up a role with National Aids control organisation [NACO] on AIDS awareness campaign. That would be two way beneficial. One it would be pay me, second it will be more fulfilling. For next 2 years I set myself out. Initially though I was ridiculed, I could do a lot of awareness in my assigned areas (Chennai). It also got me in touch with a

lot of people. I used to use my tricycle to travel to all the places.

### **Birth of "Snegidhan" trust.**

After the NACO closed down the project I went back to previous company. But my mentor Mr. Mani felt I was at best a good social worker. By that time I was also toying with the idea of doing something on those lines. In 2003 we started this trust. Meanwhile I had applied for a small accommodation in slum clearance board. After some struggle I got that.

### **What is scope of work at "Snegidhan" Trust?**

The main aim of our trust is to help the poor, especially the differently-abled. We try to get them tricycles, help them in starting business, education. With our contacts, we are even able to help medical needs.

### **What is the funding source?**

The government says they can help only if I run help in the form of homes and cannot support my current structure. So I seek help of good hearted donors who come forward to help us. We do not stress on money alone, we also ask them to work with us accomplish the mission at hand.

If you see our office is 8x5 (can we call this a room??) That is to keep the cost of administration down. People come at this office and register their problems. As far I can help them I will continue to do this!

*(A. Das is at 99, T.P. Chatram 1<sup>st</sup> street Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-30. # +91-9884292630)*

## Know Your Vision – India 2020

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*From this issue onwards, we bring to you excerpts from the Vision 2020, prepared by the Planning Commission, Govt of India. T.Balamurugan, one of the editorial board members of 'Vande Mataram', a Software Engineer by profession and a member of India Vision 2020 US group brings out this column for you!*

**Vision** – Every man has his vision for future, every group has its own. A country's vision can be achieved by educating, streamlining and aligning an individual person vision, a group vision towards achieving country vision.

**Our vision of India in 2020 is of a nation bustling with energy, entrepreneurship and innovation.**

By 2020, the people of India will be more numerous, better educated, healthier and more prosperous than at any time in our long history.

Population of India will be exceeding 1.3 billion in 2020, India should have the capacity to produce more than sufficient quantities of food to provide a healthy diet to its entire population and become a major food exporter.

India needs to generate around 200 million additional employment opportunities over the next 20 years. The fields in which these additional jobs could be created are the small and medium private enterprises (SMEs).

The current enrolment rate for primary education is around 77 per cent and for secondary education about 60 per cent. Achieving 100 per cent enrolment of all children in the 6 to 14 year age group is an ambitious but achievable goal for 2020 that should be pursued as a top priority.

**Any Vision could be achieved only after we overcome a considerable number of challenges.**

### Major Challenges for India

- A targeted approach to bring millions of families above the poverty line.
- Generation of nearly ten millions of new employment opportunities per annum, especially for those in the lower income groups
- Eradication of illiteracy
- A concerted effort to raise primary and secondary enrolment rates and minimize dropouts
- Improved public health to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition
- Massive investment in power generation, telecommunications and other physical and social infrastructure
- Accelerated acquisition of technology capabilities to raise productivity in agriculture, industry and services
- Becoming a more important player in the world economy in terms of both trade and Investments

Challenges drive us to think; Thinking leads to knowledge; Knowledge brings in improvement, Improvement raises quality of living. Providing such a high quality of living to the people of our country is the Vision. Vision of India – 2020!!

*(T.Balamurugan may be reached at [bala@rock2b.com](mailto:bala@rock2b.com))*

**Join India Vision group**

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

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

## **Rendezvous with our people's President Dr.Kalam!**

Most of us who attended would agree it was a dream come true at last ! Could not have been more appropriate for us to meet our visionary leader Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam in a recent function held at Pollachi, Coimbatore(TamilNadu). As we waited for our ex-president to arrive we still could feel the security ring well active beyond its means. Hours before he arrived area was well combed and accommodated us. Thanks to Mr.Dhanapal and Mr.Srinivasan(Publisher of this ezine) who gave us the great opportunity !

It would be our grave sin if we fail to state the purpose of the function. Function was the inauguration of the visionary project called "Together we 99", a brain child of Dr.Kalam himself and Dr.Y.S.Rajan. The project is lead by Mr.Dhanapal also founder of "Siraku Foundation". There are many distinguished members on board the foundation.

The idea of this initiative is to identify 66 social entrepreneurs and 33 mentor organizations to guide them. This would lead to growth of grass root entrepreneurs who in turn serve the needy. Creating growth centres of excellence.

The function was also attended by representatives our partner organization – Young Helping Minds, Dream India 2020, Team Everest, India Sudar and Suyam Charitable Trust.



*(SivaNarayanan.P, the author of this article, is an Electronics Engineer by profession and the Editor of Vande Mataram. He can be reached at [shivapas@yahoo.com](mailto:shivapas@yahoo.com))*

### **Have you voted for Dr.Kalam?**

Dr.Kalam is admired by people through out the world! The Govt. of India could make use of his 'charisma' to spread peace in the world.

Please sign the online petition attached below, to recommend Dr.Kalam to be appointed as Good will Ambassador to India /UN to spread peace in the world.

<http://www.petitiononline.com/gwilla/petition.html>

The success of this campaign lies in our hands. Please forward this to your friends and relatives too!

## Environment awareness – Do you care?

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Ramu and Somu, two Software Engineers, are exchanging a dialogue over coffee at their office.

**Ramu:** Hey, do you switch off your computer before leaving office for the day?

**Somu:** No, I don't... I can't wait for a few minutes every day in the morning for my system to come up. So, I keep it ON always!

**Ramu:** Don't you know that your computer would consume power if kept ON always? We work at office for 8 hours, but the machine runs for 24 hours, wasting power for 16 hours a day!

**Somu:** C'mon yaar... You are so funny. Don't you know that it's only the monitor that consumes high power and the CPU box does not? Being a well informed IT professional, I switch off the monitor everyday 😊

**Ramu:** Oh, I see. So, would you keep your home PC switched ON always?

**Somu:** Never! I don't want to pay a higher electricity bill !!

**Ramu:** There you go! So, you do not switch off your office computer, just because you are not paying the office electricity bill from your pocket!!

**Somu:** hmm... I see your point 😞

**Ramu:** There are lakhs of computers used by IT companies and IT end users like banks, call centers etc. If each one of us switch off our computers before leaving office for the day, the overall power consumption would reduce drastically!

**Somu:** Yeah, Very true. Why should we deplete all the natural sources of power by ourselves? Let us preserve some for our future generations too!

**Ramu:** You're correct... Power saved is power generated!!

**Somu:** I am enlightened now! I shall ensure that all computers under my custody would be switched off after use, from today onwards!

**Ramu:** That's good. Do inspire your friends and relatives to save power in all possible ways! Together, let us ensure that we don't waste power! Energy conserved is Energy produced!

*(Jayatheerthan.K, the author of this article, is a Software Engineer by profession and the Associate Editor of Vande Mataram. He can be reached at [jayatheerthank@gmail.com](mailto:jayatheerthank@gmail.com))*



**Do Non Resident Indians involve in Nation building?**

<http://tinyurl.com/556lsr>

Mr Sudarshan Venkatraman, Chairman of Zylog Systems Limited

## A flower yet to blossom is selling flowers. Who's responsible?

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In our previous edition of *Vande Mataram*, we had posted this picture and had asked who is responsible for this and what we can do about it. I am sure this picture would have triggered a million thoughts in your minds!

We, as socially responsible citizens of India, should continue to observe the happenings around us and contribute our best in bringing a positive change in the society.

Helping a child who is deprived of his/her basic rights is just a call away! All that you need to do is call up the child helpline **1098** and report the incident with valid details such as name and address of the child; nature of the problem faced by the child etc. The Child Line India Foundation would take care of the rest!

Be a responsible citizen and report any incident of child abuse to the child line 1098. It's easy to remember: **Ten, Nine, Eight!!**

Spread this awareness amongst your friends, relatives and to every child that you feel is vulnerable to abuse.

For more details visit: <http://www.childlineindia.org.in/>



### Unsung Heroes – Young Helping Minds

<http://tinyurl.com/3zbp6d>

Interview with motivated young students contributing to Nation building

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