



billi**o**n beats

The Pulse of India

ABDULKALAM INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

VOL 1 | ISSUE NO. 5 | OCTOBER 26, 2016

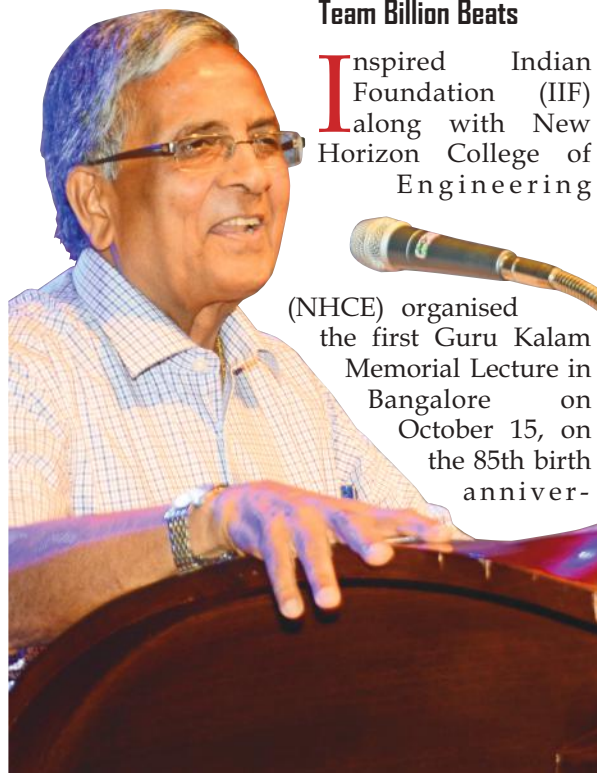
GURU KALAM 85TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

SINCE 2007 | NOT FOR SALE

'When you make in India, world will respect you'

Dr Kota Harinarayana delivers 1st Guru Kalam Memorial Lecture in Bangalore

Team Billion Beats



Inspired Indian Foundation (IIF) along with New Horizon College of Engineering

(NHCE) organised the first Guru Kalam Memorial Lecture in Bangalore on October 15, on the 85th birth anniversary

sary of the people's President. Dr Kota Harinarayana, father of the Tejas fighter jet programme, delivered the maiden lecture on the topic 'Strength respects strength.'

According to him, India could overtake China and even Japan in the next 10 years by focusing on better quality and productivity. "The Make in India mandate of the current government is encouraging. When you make in India, the world will respect you. We all should be *bhakt*s of the nation, like Dr A P J Abdul Kalam was. Innovation is the key," Dr Kota said. He added that if academics, industry and R&D organisations joined hands, then India could make rapid strides in the field of technology.

"We need to be ahead of others in developing smart networking platforms, artificial intelligence, sensors and software, which would directly lead to technological development. We are fast moving into a network-centric warfare (NCW) mode and it is important that the technology needed for this is developed within the country itself," Dr Kota said. Taking the example of India's Tejas programme, Dr Kota said that initially nobody believed that India could master many cutting-edge technologies in the process of developing the fighter.

Dr Mohan Manghnani, Chairman, New Horizon Education Institutions said Dr Kalam is not only remembered for his contribution to space and defence, but for his simple life. "He walked the talk always and that set him apart from the rest," Dr Mohan said. Renowned Bharathanatayam and Kathak dancer Jayanthi M Eshwarputhi, Dr Manjunatha, Principal, NHCE, Dr Sheelan Misra, Head of Department of Management Studies and members of IIF were present during the occasion. A large number of young engineers from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Aeronautical Development Agency were also present.

Inspiring Indians: From a security guard to a designer by profession

By Preksha Sethia

Unlike many of us, Srikanth Kumar Sahu is a struggler, and a creative one at that. Born in an economically backward family living in Orissa's Tolakani village, he is one among the few around us who had a dream, and pursued it to his most effective imaginative abilities. His is not a rags to riches story, but a story of what dreamers can achieve if given a chance.

When young, it was virtually impossible for his family to live with the sole income of his father. Therefore, to support the financial requirements, he started working at a *paan* shop after school. He also used to help his father farm in the field. "It was tough for a young boy. But all I cared was to have a stable living for my family. I always wanted to study and wanted nothing to stop me from gaining education. Even though I was running around doing odd jobs, I was determined to complete my studies and go ahead with life," he said recalling his childhood days.

As years passed, he realised his potential to paint. He started undertaking sign board art, cement art, clay art and painting jobs. He completed his BA from Jhadeswar Mahavidyalaya Tolakani, Jajpur and moved to Bengaluru to explore more income opportunities.

"For a young man like me, who had never stepped out of Orissa, Bengaluru was huge. It was the



Srikanth Kumar Sahu

biggest city I had seen in my entire life till that day. I knew nobody in the city. I was petrified by the sheer volume of the city. I had no money and all I had was the determination and will to succeed," he said. It was because of this determination and perseverance that after many

rejections and disappointments, he got a job of a security guard in Neev Technologies. In between he used to make paintings also.

One fine day, the CEO of Webbazaar (a subsidiary of Neev Technologies) came over, and during a casual discussion, realised his enthusiasm and taste in designing. She took him in and trained him in computer designing. "I felt a chill when I first touched the computer," he said.

One week he used to train during day shifts and the next week he practiced in the night shift. This cycle continued until he got a job at Webbazaar as a designer. By this time his family also expanded. He got married and had a son. In 2010, Webbazaar gave him a job as a user interface designer.

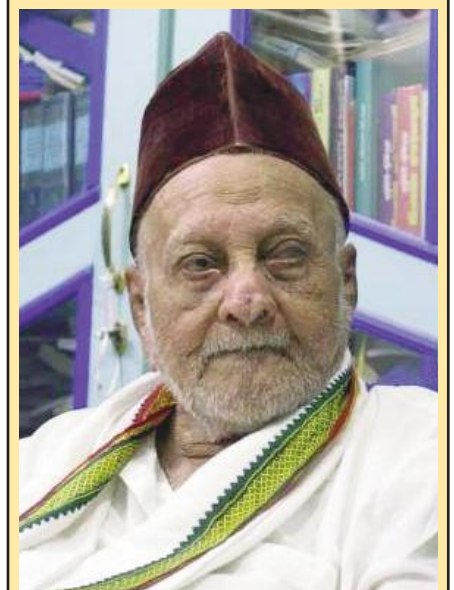
"I have done over 200 live sites so far. I now want to become a developer," said Srikanth and added that when he looks back at his life, he feels amazed.

"It sounds like unreal. But deep down I know it is the end product of those sleepless nights and tears I spent to polish my skills. It gave me the courage to face the world," he said.

According to him, he has reached where he is because he dared to dream. "It was tough. But I wasn't ready to buckle down. Life is a struggle and you need to fight it out," he said.

(The writer is student of BSc. Physical Sciences at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi.)

CENTURION @ HOUSE OF KALAM



House of Kalam in Rameswaram is warming up to celebrate the 100th birthday of A P J M Maraikayar, elder brother of Guru Kalam. On November 5, Maraikayarji would turn 100. The family is planning a simple event in honour of him. The Abdul Kalam International Foundation has already started preparations and a host of special guests are expected for the event. Team Billion Beats wishes Maraikayarji a very happy and healthy birthday.

9TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The 9th anniversary issue of *Billion Beats* is planned for next month and we invite contributions from you. If you have success stories to share or any inspiration which can be followed, we welcome your contributions along with a passport-size photo, name, mailing address, phone number and scanned ID proof. Write in to us at: billionbeats@gmail.com with a CC to anantha.ak@gmail.com.

GODDESS FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN

Padmaja, a post-graduate in Zoology, quit her job as Mandal Development Officer with the AP government, to work full-time for the welfare of tribal children without any remuneration.

By Shirin Samuel

She looks like a monk with her clean-shaven head, large, smiling eyes behind glasses and unironed white cotton saree with a tiny red border, draped offhandedly. This 43-year-old Zoology post-graduate started volunteering at the Jattu Ashram in Parvathipuram (about 150 km north of Visakhapatnam, close to Orissa border), Andhra Pradesh, in 2004 and later quit her job as Mandal Development Officer with the Andhra Pradesh State Government, to work full-time at the Ashram, with no remuneration, in 2007. Padmaja V is 'Amma' for 42 tribal children.

The Ashram was set up in 1999 by Pari Naidu. But things were pretty bad when Padmaja started her work here. The residents did not have enough to eat and there was no money to buy food. Hailing from an agricultural family, she roped in the children and able adults to grow paddy, vegetables and fruits so that there would be enough to eat. Now, with local donors chipping in, mostly through donation of rice and other food grains, they just grow their own vegetables, which ensure that the children get wholesome meals.

Though the Ashram is in hot, dusty Andhra Pradesh, under Padmaja's loving care, the entire Ashram is covered in green, with the children chipping in with watering of the plants and weeding, when required.

An imposing 30-feet tall statue of Shiva in his classic dancing pose as Nataraja is at the entrance to the Ashram. The garden around the statue has stone sculptures depicting the 108 Karanams (poses) of Natya Shastra. This is the contribution of



Padmaja with one of the wards.

Srinivas Raju, a Government school teacher and magician, whose wife, Nagakanyaka, is the dance guru at the Kalakshetram set up in the Ashram

premises. She teaches Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi not only to the children of the Ashram but also to children from the neighbouring town. Under her guidance, the Ashram children have performed at various dance festivals and competitions at the State and national level and have won many accolades and prizes. The couple has decided not to have children of their own but have informally adopted two of the girls from the Ashram.

Padmaja and the children have also built their own skating rink on the premises. They have a small hutch with rabbits, which keep having babies, and the children look after them. They also have a gaggle of geese. Someone donated a pair and now they have almost a cricket team of geese who waddle around the campus honking noisily or swim contentedly in the small pond in front.

Hanumantha, a school boy, is a peer educator. He lives in the nearby town with his parents but has chosen to live in the Ashram with the children for a while. He teaches the ancient martial art of Karra-Samu (stick fight) to the handful of boys at the Ashram, who have become quite proficient in it.

Padmaja lives an ascetic life – she sleeps on a narrow, hard wooden cot with no mattress or pillow. She eats frugally. She is up at around 4.30 am daily to supervise the children doing their yoga. She is always cheerful and has a 'can do' attitude, reminding us of the change for the better that one individual can make if he or she makes an effort.

Padmaja can be contacted on 9440899365 if anyone would like to volunteer or contribute to the Ashram.

(The author is former journalist and currently a CorpCom professional with BEL.)

INDIA OF MY DREAMS

Happier India = Prosperous and Powerful India

I am a proud Indian who loves his motherland. I wish to make my country an ideal country, a country of many dreams. I wish to see my country progress in all



fields ; a richer, cleaner, healthier and happier place to live in, where there is no place for any kind of bias on the basis of caste, creed or social strata. It should be a land where women and girls are respected and encouraged to pursue their dreams with as much gusto as their male counterparts. I wish to see my country as the land where no man has to suffer for lack of food or clean water, where basic necessities are available to all. This will not only ensure prosperity of our country and its people, but will ultimately push us in the league of super powers of the world and that is where I wish to see my India.

(Shiv Nahata, DPS, Nerul, Navi Mumbai)

Golden Sparrow Again

My wish is to make India an ideal country in the world. Today, we find a big gap between the rich and the poor. There is corruption in all walks of life. The India of my dream will have social justice. There will



India of My Dreams (IOMD) section is open to schoolchildren, including those with special needs. Shoot off your thoughts along with a passport-size photograph, scanned ID proof, school details and phone number to: billionbeats@gmail.com. Full versions of articles will be available on our FB page.

be no rich and poor. Everybody will be equal. There will be no shortage of anything. There will be discipline, peace and happiness. The feelings of casteism and regionalism will go forever.

There will be an atmosphere of equality, brotherhood and freedom all over the country. Slum colonies would nowhere be seen. Everyone

would have a proper house to live in. Streets would be neat and clean. There would be free and compulsory education for all.

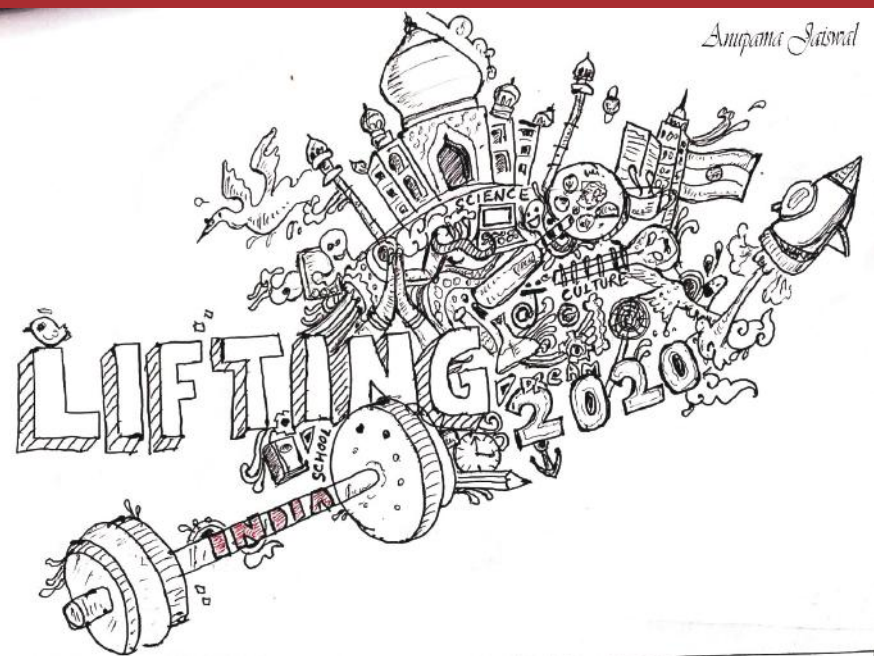
Today people have grown selfish. We always think of our own interests, and do not think of the welfare of the nation. In the India of my dreams, every man will have a high moral sense and a deep love for the nation. I dream of making India a richer, happier and healthier place to live in. I want to see my country progress in all fields of life.

Overall I want to see my India to become the 'Golden sparrow' again.

(Dhruv Gupta, Modern School, Delhi)

TECH IT EASY

AJ



Here is a doodle art by software professional Anupama Jaiswal capturing some of the missions set by Guru Kalam for India. Whatever it means, the effort is praise-worthy.

POETRY POINT

Joy of Journey

Many of us like to travel,
To explore and cross the sea.
Our path may be different,
Our methods might vary.
Let us hope,
And
Let us believe
That
We reach there safely.
We share the same happiness,
We suffer the same pain,
We swallow the same emptiness,
Let us hope,
And
Let us believe
That
We reach there safely.
Let us travel,
Travel with the wind.
Let us travel,
Travel with the map.
Let us travel,
Travel with a plan.
Let us travel,
Travel with a belief.
Let us travel,
Travel with a desire.
And
Let us travel,
Travel with a prayer.
Then,
Let us hope,
And
Let us believe
That
We reach there safely.

(Contributed by P R Nidheesh Kumar, MA Communication University of Hyderabad.)