“Be the change you want to see in the world” – M. K. Gandhi.

The purpose of this book is to act as a mirror so that the people of this country could reflect on their merits and demerits in a constructive spirit. The author who was the President of India and also a scientist in Missile technology wanted to inspire and ignite the youth towards making India a developed country. He articulately states that, “The ignited minds of India’s youth are the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth” (p. 3). This book claims to be the vision document; a manifesto by the late author, who during his lifetime had observed and interacted with the masses closely. The present book is the sequel to the book India 2020 by Dr. Kalam. In the first book the author has presented plans and actions to make India a developed country by the year 2020. The second book, A Manifesto for Change is an appraisal of the actions taken so far and what more is required further for this mission. Mostly based on empirical data and interesting anecdotes, this book distances itself from the cliché rhetoric of so called ‘golden age’ rather focuses on the possibilities of a better tomorrow.

There are eight chapters in this book, out of which seven chapters deal with different goals focusing on a singular objective of making India a developed nation. Now the question arises how to fulfill the basis requirement of making a caravan of people to come forward and work together in this endeavor. To sow the seed in the minds of the leaders and the youth on the ways of making the political system responsive, accountable, corruption-free, transparent and pro-active, to empower people to be globally competitive, etc. There are many questions like ensuring the basic requirements of the citizens getting fulfilled in record time or how to overcome challenges in a country, which is so diverse and unpredictable. This is the time where words like growth, progress, development, change, etc. are meant to be inclusive. For this politics should be oriented towards creative leadership. All the people’s representatives right from the panchayat members to the members of parliament should develop some visionary leadership qualities. Every leader or Member of Parliament should think that the nation is bigger than the individual or party. A visionary leadership helps in creation of atmosphere, “to welcome out of box ideas and make it a truly inclusive parliament” (p. 9). A great visionary leader can inspire 640 million youth of this nation, by practicing inclusive development in true sense. The youth of this country should inherit a nation that is leader and not a follower. Beside the leaders it is the people that make a country great, and there are many instances where the efforts of the individual or common citizen has made the difference and brought the change. So far as the issue of change is concerned, politics is the ultimate influencing structure. Many youths with vision aspire for joining the political system of this country, but very few succeed in doing so and one of the reasons is that most of them lack financial stability and political backup. Those who join the administrative services are sidelined by the corrupt politicians. But as a citizen and a voter of this country, one can make the system work if the person at the grassroots level is informed and aware of the problems and issues of the locality. The approach here is from bottom to top, instead of vice-versa. This approach could be fruitful in de-criminalization of politics and also asserts confidence in a good number of parliamentarians who work diligently and have rendered great service. It is well-known fact that parliament members are the nation builders. So it is very important for a nation to ensure the quality of parliamentarians the country needs, the type of questions they raise during the Question hour, participation in formulation of many legislation and debates in the house. Furthermore it is important to know what are MPs plans and vision for their respective constituency and country at large; how they can make their term in Parliament more fruitful.

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