



Meeting the *Karmayogi*

(Ulhas Kamat – Bangalore)

It was 10:00 p.m. on a wintry day in January, I and the I Create team were waiting in the visitors' room at the Rajbhavan in Bangalore for the arrival of the person we were to meet. There were a large number of people from different walks of life waiting for their interaction with the same person – Dr. Kalam, *Peoples President*. He was to arrive from New Delhi.

Earlier in the week I had received an email asking me to meet Dr. Kalam at the Rajbhavan in Bangalore on 8th January, 2010 at 10:30 p.m. I thought there must be a mistake about the timing and wrote back to inquire whether the meeting was at 10:30 a.m. and not 10:30 p.m. – as stated in the mail. The reply was quick: “No. It is indeed at 10:30 p.m.”.

The meeting was the result of Mr. Bharat Bhargava (Harsh's brother) having briefed Dr. Kalam about the activities and mission of I Create. Dr. Kalam had studied and understood the nature of our work and had given a message on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of I Create – being celebrated in January, 2010. Now he wanted to meet the team.

Finally, though a bit late, Dr. Kalam arrived and he started his interaction with individuals. I vividly remember a young boy reciting *Carnatic Music* for him and the encouraging words from Dr. Kalam to him and his parents.

It was now our turn to meet Dr. Kalam and brief him about our mission and method. He was a keen listener and was very much impressed by our motto of “Creating Job Creators” which was attuned to his own thinking. He made useful suggestions about creating business incubation centers all across the country – in rural and urban areas.

His message was included in the “101 Representative Success Stories of I Create Entrepreneurs”. He autographed a copy of the book and one copy was given to him.

In August 2011, while addressing the National Seminar on Skill Development organized by American India Foundation & National Skill Development Corporation he alluded to the story of Samad (from the book on 101 stories) and emphasized the need for “*entrepreneurship incubation institutions all over India*”.

When we left him, after almost 20 minutes of interaction and sharing of the vision, there were plenty of people still waiting patiently and expectantly to meet and interact with him. It was well past midnight by then.

The meeting was truly uplifting and encouraging. He was a true *Karmayogi*.