



# Bad times build good leaders

**Million-Leader-Mandate**  
**Sangeeth Varghese**

# Speaker Profile



- Sangeeth Varghese is an acknowledged leadership thinker, and the founder of LeadCap.
- Is the author of the bestseller 'Decide to Lead' and writes a popular column in ET. His columns have appeared in Forbes, TOI and he has appeared in BBC and CNBC. Varghese guest edited the 2008 New Year edition of the TOI as a “young star making a difference”.
- Feb 2008, Bombay Stock Exchange Journal rated Varghese as one of the most influential leadership thinkers.
- Did his masters and research London School of Economics with a scholarship.

# Building a Nation of Leaders

- LeadCap is nurtured by thinkers from the Ivy League with a vision to build the first leadership democracy in the world; to build India as a nation of leaders.

*"Is there an Indian equivalent of the American Dream? LeadCap is striving to identify it:" Forbes*

# Our beliefs

- **Teaching how to fish is better than providing fish:** Helping individuals discover their true potential would help them more in the longer term than any other aid. This way they would help themselves, as well as the society.
- **Leadership is a decision, not a position:** Individuals who emerged as some of the greatest leaders had nothing extraordinary about them. Anyone could be a leader irrespective of birth or living conditions, if willing to decide
- **Leaders breed more leaders:** More individuals would embrace the leadership mantle, if they are made aware that leadership is a decision. Hence, true leaders are those who nurture more leaders, not followers

# No cash, no meal

- **Story of Bicky Chakroborty**

- Vicar and his daughter
- Bad economy, no meal
- If I cannot afford a meal, then why not start a restaurant?
- One of the richest men in Scandinavia

# Lame duck, sitting duck

- “It is of times of crisis that good leaders emerge”
- **Rudolph Giuliani**
  - 3 marriages
  - Lame duck, philandering husband
  - Daughter drops her surname
  - Sep 11, and the recession.
  - Rebuilding America

# Make others smile, while you are crying

- **Walt Disney**
  - Abusive father, absolute poverty
  - Red Cross stint; not to help injured but putting a smile
  - A dingy animation studio. Bankruptcy
  - Recession of 1920s
  - Steamboat Willie

# When chips are down, have a coffee

- Kwai Yu:
  - Faced with the current recession
  - Faced with a reality of 500 people facing redundancy
  - Question - how can I help?
  - Helping more people to get back on their feet.
  - Leadership Café Foundation
  - Inspire more people, give it away


# Three questions

- Is there anything extraordinary about these people?
- What happens when ordinary individuals turn around?
- What would happen to India, if a million citizens turn-around?

# Recession helps you recession proof

- We all require an enemy to fight
- Bad times don't last for ever
- Bad times show us differentiated opportunities
- Be the cockroaches of the world

# Leadership Takeaway



“Don’t just sit there. Get out there and do something”