



Defining moments that can change your life

Nurturing a million leaders for India

Who is speaking?



- Leadership thinker from the London School of Economics, founder of LeadCap and a Forbes Columnist.
- Author of the bestseller 'Decide to Lead'

Catch the weekly
column in Forbes:
'The Leading Edge'.
www.Forbes.com

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.
- Million-Leader-Mandate aims to empower a million citizens of India with leadership opportunities, beyond their birth and living conditions by 2013.

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

Core 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



Defining moments that can change your life

Departure of Siddhartha

- Born in Lumbini in the small kingdom of Kapilvastu
- Led a luxurious life, with 3 palaces built exclusively for him
- He was protected and guarded from everything.
- At the age of 29, as Siddhartha strolled outside his palace he saw the suffering of an old man.
- For the first time in his life, he was exposed to poverty and old age. He was deeply disturbed.
- As he looked around he encountered more scenes of stark reality - a diseased man, a decaying corpse, and an ascetic.
- He was deeply depressed and moved.
- Siddhartha decided to take the path of Buddha.

The turnaround of Mohan

- Born in a Hindu Modh family in a conservative, orthodox family
- Scared of darkness, stage fright and shy as a boy
- Barely managed to pass his matriculation examination
- Yet never exposed to the realities of India, since he was from a higher caste
- In South Africa he suddenly faced discrimination
- He read a book called 'Unto the Last'
- Mohandas K Gandhi decided to turn around

The embrace of George

- From a lower middle class family with no great education
- Shy and inward looking
- Being non-controversial, once recommended to a position of responsibility in a youth organisation, during one of their membership recruitment drives
- The emotion that struck George the most was 'fear'. Never before did he dream of something like this
- Shattered many of the preconceived notions about himself
- Yet, George decided to embrace his new found responsibility



**The connecting thread in all
these stories..**

...A defining moment

- Moment of truth
- Opens up the potential leader - shows the difference between thinking and reality
- Leaves an indelible impression
- A stronger conviction than heredity or education
- Thrusts the responsibility

Attributes of your defining moment

- Nothing spectacular
- Involves much personal stake. Shatters many convictions till then
- Not an isolated moment
- Null and void without a decision

Turnaround in life

