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Ordinary to Extraordinary

Sangeeth Varghese

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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.
- LeadLab is a platform to empower every individual in India with leadership opportunities, beyond their birth and living conditions.

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

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Speaker Profile

- Sangeeth Varghese is a globally 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.
- He has done his research and masters at the London School of Economics with a scholarship.

www.leadcap.org

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Why Leadership?

- India has always been a nation of doers.
- We are excellent in doing things. We produce outstanding analysts, programmers and managers. And while doing this we produce services which are cost competent.
- But the problem with cost competency is that it is fleeting. That it does not give us any sustainable competitor advantage. It can be replicated easily and hence it is India today, but it could be any nation tomorrow.
- To get on to the next level India should build itself as a nation of leaders. We should build leadership in the country.

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What is Leadership?

Leadership is about creating
something extraordinary out of
the ordinary

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So, What is Ordinary?

- **Ordinary is this boy called Mohan.** Who read a newspaper for the first time at the age of 16. Who was scared of darkness. Who barely managed to pass his matriculation. Who had the worst of stage frights.

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So, What is Ordinary?

- **Ordinary is this boy called Jack.** Who was always under some illness or the other. He was constantly suffering from chicken pox, whooping cough. At the age of three he has a scarlet fever and his parents thought he would never survive.

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So, What is Ordinary?

- **Ordinary is this boy called Thomas.** Who was the youngest of seven children of his impoverished parents. He had a brain fever which took a toll on his health. He had hardly three months of formal education. He was forced to take job as a newspaper vendor in a local train to support his family.

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What is Extraordinary?

- **Extraordinary is this man called Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.** Who shook the foundations of the greatest empire the world has ever see, who continues to inspire millions across the world and about whom Albert Einstein said that future generations would wonder how anyone could have this kind of greatness.

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What is Extraordinary?

- **Extraordinary is this man called John F Kennedy.** Who emerged as the most charismatic leader the world has ever seen, who put the first man on the moon, who enthralled the audience every time he spoke.

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What is Extraordinary?

- **Extraordinary is this man called Thomas Alva Edison.** Who is the greatest inventor the world has ever seen, who holds more patents than anyone in this world.

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- **Leadership is creating something extraordinary out of the ordinary**
- **However, there is nothing extraordinary about extraordinary**

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Leadership is a Decision

- As you have seen in the cases of Gandhiji, Edison and John F Kennedy, great leaders are not distinguishable from ordinary people in terms of their intelligence, talents, or abilities for that matter.
- They did not possess anything that made them born leaders – no birthrights, no pedigree and no extraordinary attributes.
- But when they were faced with a defining moment, they boldly decided to step in to the shoes of a leader.

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You Can Decide to be Extraordinary

- Many of us here think that we are ordinary. That we did not get a chance to be at IIT, or an IIM, that we did not go to a Harvard or MIT.
- But if you would decide we would make you a leader.
- **Decide..that is the first step**

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