

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE IDEA INDIA 2018 AWARDS DISTRIBUTION AND LAUNCH
OF STUDENT REIGNS MAGAZINE ORGANISED BY DR.A.P.J ABDUL KALAM
STUDENTS FEDERATION OF INDIA AT ALICE GREEN AUDITORIUM, C.S.I EWART
MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, PURASAWALKAM,
CHENNAI ON 15.10.2018 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Dr. Thamizhisai Soundararajan,
State President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Tamil Nadu

Thiru. Joseph Emmanuel,
Founder President,
Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Students Federation of India

Thiru. L. Murugan,
Vice Chairman,
National Commission for Schedule Castes,
New Delhi

Thiru. Krishna Kumar,
Advocate, Madras High Court

Thiru. M. Chakravarthy,
Trustee, Vishakhapatnam Port Trust

Thiru. P. Venkatesh Raja,
Director, S. A. Engineering College

Distinguished Invitees

Teachers & Students

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy to be here today to take part in the function organised by the 'Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam Students Federation of India', for the distribution of its 'Idea India' 2018 Awards, and the launch of its 'Student Reigns' magazine.

Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam was a People's President, who rose to that position after serving the nation as a missile scientist. We are celebrating his birthday today.

The life voyage of Dr. Kalam is truly a lesson for all of us to learn. His father's profession was to build and rent boats. Kalam was a diligent and intelligent student in the class. He distributed newspapers in his locality to support his father. But he always had keen interest towards studies. He was a very promising student and showed enormous likings towards science and mathematics. Dr. Kalam went to St. Joseph's College after completing his school education and later qualified for admission to the Madras Institute of Technology to earn a degree in aeronautical engineering.

Failing to qualify as a fighter pilot for the Indian Air force Dr.Kalam set about pursuing a career as a space scientist.

He came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. He also played a pivotal organisational, technical, and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998.

Kalam was the third President of India to have been honoured with a Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, before becoming the President.

He was also the first scientist to occupy Rashtrapati Bhawan.

After demitting office, Kalam became a visiting professor at various prestigious educational institutions.

In May 2012, Kalam launched a programme for the youth of India called the What Can I Give Movement, with a central theme of defeating corruption.

India Vision 2020 was a document prepared by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of the Department of Science and Technology commissioned under the chairmanship of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and a team of 500 experts.

It aimed at doubling the present production of agricultural and food processing, providing urban amenities to rural areas, increasing solar power operations ensuring literacy, social security, and overall health for the population, increasing e-governance to promote education in remote areas, promotion of nuclear technology, space technology and defense technology and reducing the levels of poverty and illiteracy, encouraging the purchase of Swadeshi goods thereby providing strength to the Indian Economy.

Dr.Kalam always used to say, "Fear not for the future, let us create it".

He taught the youth to be dynamic, to aspire high and work for it. He laid emphasis on the need for good and interactive teaching.

Dr.Kalam moved closely with students. He listened to them and answered their questions with patience. I am pleased to learn that in line with this, Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam students federation of India has organized IDEA INDIA 2018 speech competition for the students in schools and colleges across Chennai. The best ideas given by the participants will be forwarded to Govt. Of India.

Dr. Abdul Kalam was convinced that India's youth power was its greatest strength. In just two years, that is in 2020, every other person in India will be below 25 years of age. This is India's demographic dividend. Dr. Kalam took it upon himself to put positive ideas in the hearts of the youth of India so that India would scale new heights.

Once Dr. Kalam was answering questions from students who had been assembled before him by a TV channel.

He asked the students, 'Can you answer, What I will be remembered for?'

The anchor mistook the question to mean, "What will Dr. Abdul Kalam be remembered for?"

Then Dr. Kalam said, "No, no. It is not about Kalam. Forget Kalam. I am asking, what students want themselves to be remembered for?".

Dr. Kalam was making students think about this question so that they live up to great ideals.

It was Dr. Kalam's thinking that if the students gave some thought to how others will view them, they would conduct themselves in a more socially-responsible and socially-responsive manner!

Kalam's interest in nature was enormous. He studied the various dimensions of nature and tried to link it with philosophy. The secret of his success was also the way he interacted with his colleagues. In one of his books he writes and I quote

"He was someone who had been working in my laboratory since 1982, but I had never really known him well until the February of 1987 when I visited him at the Intensive Coronary Care Unit of the Nizam's Institute of Medical Science in Hyderabad.

He was a mere 32 years old, but was fighting valiantly for his life. I asked him if there was anything he wanted me to do for him. "Give me your blessings, sir," He said, "so that I may have a longer life and can complete at least one of your projects."

The young man's dedication moved me and I prayed for his recovery all night. The Lord answered my prayers and Tiwari was able to get back to work in a month. He did an excellent job in helping to realize the Akash missile airframe from scratch within the short space of three years.

I am glad that school and college students have been inspired by Dr. Kalam and have taken part in the IDEA India 2018 competitions held by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Students Federation of India.

Dr. Kalam is an inspirational figure to us; his unsullied and exemplary life of probity is something that we look up to. He was a votary of the principle of simple living and the high thinking. I am sure that Dr. Kalam's message will make India the Jagat-guru of the world.

May India march ahead with Dr. Kalam's mantra that each one of us must do what it takes to make India a developed country! My good wishes to all of you.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind