

Traffic issues need solutions like metro rail, says Kalam

Lists Opportunities In Infrastructure, Agriculture, Rlys

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: At a time when the city is debating the need for mass transport systems, former president APJ Abdul Kalam said here on Wednesday that the country needed solutions like metro rail in cities that are facing problems like overcrowding and traffic issues.

Kalam made a mention of this while listing out the vast opportunities that he foresees in a range of areas such as urban and rural infrastructure, agriculture, railways and aircraft building, among others.

Kalam was delivering a speech on 'Realising Vision 2020 through Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA)' at the launch of 'Alpaviram', a discussion forum, at the Symbiosis Institute of Business Man-

The India as visualised 10 years from now will be a nation where rural-urban divide is reduced to a thin line, where distribution of power and water will be equitable, where education with value systems is not denied to any individual and the government is responsive and corruption-free

APJ ABDUL KALAM | FORMER PRESIDENT

agement. The forum plans to engage eminent personalities from different walks of life to deliver speeches at regular intervals on how to realise India's Vision 2020.

During a 30-minute speech, Kalam touched upon a range of issues like combating economic turbulence through global enterprise; convergence of technologies; current ambience of the Indian economy; a distinct profile of the nation envisaged in 2020; a sector-wise, industry-wise analysis of India's future and sustainable development through PURA.

"We are witnessing the emergence of a new world order, where technology has made the world come to-

gether as never before," said Kalam, while citing the multi-diverse culture of work that prevails in Indian information technology firms providing solutions to nations worldwide.

He said, "We have to see how core competency of two nations or multiple nations can work together through sharing of experience, wisdom and knowledge for designing and developing cost-effective products."

Kalam said, "The Indian economy was able to withstand the global economic slowdown mainly because the liberalisation process in the country had its checks and balances consistent with India's social needs. Similarly, India's banking system remains

conservative and the common Indian psyche remains savings-oriented and living within the means."

"The India as visualised 10 years from now will be a nation where rural-urban divide is reduced to a thin line, where distribution of power and water will be equitable, where education with value systems is not denied to any individual and the government is responsive and corruption free," he said. This can be achieved through five main areas, identified as: agriculture and agriculture food processing; education and healthcare; information and communication technology; surface transport and power; and self-reliance in critical technologies, he added.

Kalam went on to list the opportunities that exist for young Indians in a range of areas including infrastructure, power, sustainable development and even in politics. The PURA movement has significant role in this process and youngsters have a lot to contribute through it for building a strong and self-reliant nation, he added.

'Education can change students into enlightened citizens'

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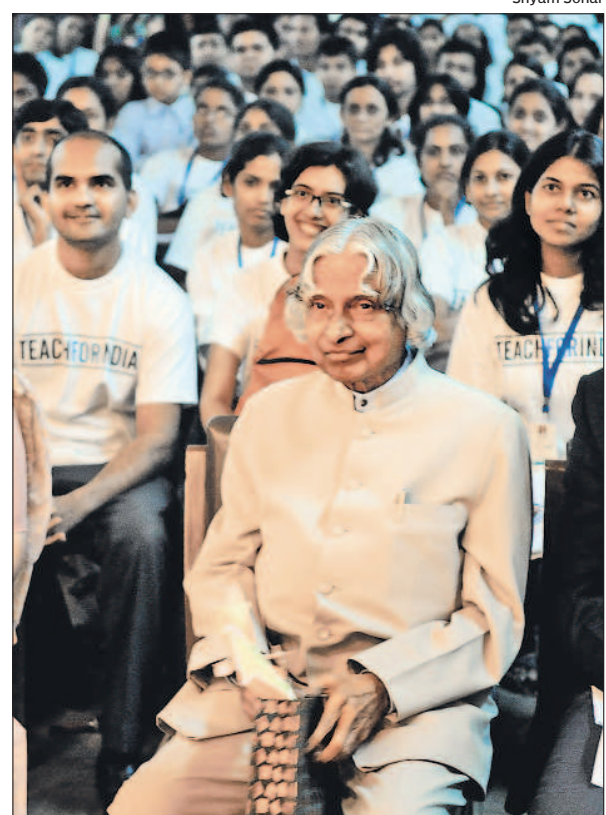
Pune: Former President of India A P J Abdul Kalam on Wednesday said that the fellows of the Teach for India movement have the potential to become ambassadors for change and address the existing educational inequities in the country.

Kalam was addressing the fellows of the Teach for India movement at Dastur school here to mark the completion of a year of the movement, as well as the induction of the second batch of fellows.

Lauding the work accomplished by the fellows over one year, Kalam said that when he examined the profile of teachers in the movement, he could see a definite love for teaching and a will to make a difference. "I am a teacher too, and I strongly believe that education can transform students into enlightened citizens," he said. "When you enter a classroom, you have to have an armour of preparation that will help impart the best to your students."

Kalam went on to spell out a three-pronged 'knowledge equation' for teachers to bear in mind — creativity plus righteousness in the heart plus courage. Elaborating on each of these, he said, "Creativity, for starters, leads to learning, which leads to thinking and knowledge. Similarly, when there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in character, which is logically followed by harmony in the home, order in the nation and peace in the world. Simultaneously, you need to impart courage in order to think differently, invent, travel towards the unexplored, combat problems and succeed."

He asked the TFI fellows to repeat after him that teaching would be their soul. He told them to always bear in mind that they were responsible for shaping youth, whom he described as the most powerful resource of the nation. He



Abdul Kalam at the Teach for India programme on Wednesday

urged the fellows to treat all students equally and said their lives would be a message to their students.

Members of the Akanksha Foundation were present on the occasion.

Teach For India is a nationwide movement that aims at narrowing the educational gap by placing the country's most outstanding college graduates and young professionals, of all academic majors and careers, in low-income schools to teach for two years. The mission is to build a movement of leaders who will eliminate inequity in education.

The first batch of 87 fellows began teaching in June 2009, and TFI has received close to 4,000 applications for its second batch of 150 fellows, who will start teaching in June 2010. The movement is focused on a com-

mon vision: 'One day, all children will have access to excellent education'.

The movement envisages that at the end of the two-year stint, the young teachers who would go back to their respective fields would be personally acquainted with and sensitized to the problems confronting education, thereby gradually bringing about a larger systemic change in the way education is perceived.

Those interested in the 2011 Fellowship, or in getting involved with the organization in other ways, can learn more at teachforindia.org. The deadline for applications for TFI fellows (2011) is October 10, 2010.

Teach for India Fellows — Daniel Lobo, Sana Gabula and Dhiran Achanta — stressed their sense of fulfillment in reaching out to young students.

'Forces should manage water resources'

Former Prez Says Innovations Must Be Promoted At Various Research Levels

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Pune: The armed forces can play a role in managing the water resources of the country, former president APJ Abdul Kalam said here on Wednesday.

Kalam was speaking at the College of Military Engineering (CME) during the centenary course celebrations. Presenting a vision for the future role of the CME, Kalam said, "Besides their usual roles, the CME should plan and manage projects such as 'interconnection of river bodies'. Bodies like the CME can also play a role in waterways and river management, including flood and drought management."

Sharing his experience at the Gatton College of Lexington in Kentucky, US (where he went for a teaching assignment in April 2010) Kalam said such a role was carved out for the Corps of Engineers by then President George Washington. "It has implemented 200 flood protection projects and manages 372 billion cubic metres of water."

"There is no reason why we should not apply modern navigation management to control floods in the Kosi and Brahmaputra rivers, like they do in flood control of the Mississippi. If we can save even half of the 1,500 billion cubic metres of water that flows into the sea, our country's water problem can be solved."

Kalam also said that more innovations should be promoted at various research levels in the country, including the armed forces. "System design, system integration and system management principles in an interdisciplinary environment should be learned and adopted by the forces. You will be remembered, not by your rank, but by



Abdul Kalam looks on as CME commandant Lt Gen U S P Sinha unveils a model of the institute during the centenary celebrations on Wednesday. CME deputy commandant Maj Gen Rajeev Datt can also be seen

what you do in terms of lightening the load of soldiers, developing new strategy for weapon deployment, designing new communication platforms, designing tools for nuclear warfare, research in controlling terrorism, developing smart water base for stopping flood and becoming the first military astronaut to walk on Mars," he said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kalam addressed newly inducted scientists of the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) at the institute. Irrespective of their specialisation, young scientists should pursue integrated learning and

follow a multiple-discipline approach to projects, which will better place them to develop new products, take them to new levels of innovation and prepare them for higher organisational responsibilities, Kalam said.

Kalam said young scientists have to work in an environment where there are several members involved in research work, complete with multi-facets of engineering and science. Stressing the importance of learning integrated system design, Kalam said research by scientists may even be shared with their counterparts in oth-

er friendly countries to build a common product mutually beneficial to the participating nations.

DIAT vice-chancellor L M Patnaik gave the introductory address at the programme and among those present were chief controller research and development K D Nayak and Amarjitsingh, dean, DIAT.

Observing that inventions and discoveries come from creative individuals who constantly work and imagine the outcome in their mind, Kalam said that higher the number of creative minds in the country better are the innovations. He said that students should not neglect any aspect of their discipline and there should be no iron curtains between streams of engineering and science. Education — which is the foundation of technology, research and development — should become borderless, he added.

During his address, Kalam narrated milestones that have made him extremely happy — the satellite launch vehicle (SLV-3) in July 1980, India becoming a nuclear weapon state in May 1998, Agni II missile system hitting the target in April 1999, the government's announcement of a vision statement in 1996 that India will become a developed nation by 2020.

Mishap on e-way halts traffic

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Pune: Traffic on the Pune-Mumbai expressway was affected for over 30 minutes after a container truck overturned near a tunnel in the ghat section at Khandala on Wednesday evening.

Highway police personnel said cranes were rushed to shift the vehicle. The incident took place around 7.30 pm.

After the accident, movement of vehicles from Mumbai to Pune slowed down, the police control room said. According to the expressway control room, the overturned truck had blocked traffic for a while. Vehicles were moving slowly as work on shifting the truck was in progress.

Free PMPML pass for city students

Pune: The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML) has decided to issue free travel passes to students between standards V and X staying within the Pune Municipal Corporation limits.

The PMPML had deferred the scheme waiting first to ascertain whether the PMC and the Pimpri Chinchwad Mu-

nicipal Corporation (PCMC) had made any budgetary provisions to fund the free pass scheme. The PMPML said the decision was made on Wednesday. Incidentally, there is no decision yet on starting the scheme for students living in Pimpri-Chinchwad, since the PCMC has sent no communication in this regard. TNN

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