

11th Annual Ullas Workshop - Key Coverages

Mainlines & Onlines

THE TIMES OF INDIA

All in a day for Kalam: Visits alma mater, honours maestro

Former president A P J Abdul Kalam had a hectic schedule in the city on Friday. First on the list was appropriately a visit to his alma mater, the Madras Institute of Technology, Chromepet.

Interacting with students after inaugurating India's first high temperature material characterisation lab, worth Rs 5 crore, that would test materials used for making fighter aircraft, re-entry vehicles and satellites, Kalam asked them to be innovative and competitive in realising their dreams. The students, he said, should come out with creative ideas that would light up the lives of others.

Pointing out the contributions made by MIT founder Chinnaswami Rajan, who donated Rs 5 lakh in 1944 by selling his bungalows to start the premier technical institute, Kalam said creative ideas and bold attempts by individuals like Rajan made the real difference in diverse fields such as education. "I visited several states and UTs where I found many creative ideas of individuals which changed the lives of others and turned them into success stories," Kalam added.

Kalam next graced the 11th Annual Ullas workshop, an initiative of Polaris. When the former president entered the room, a hush fell on the crowd, mostly students. Then followed a thunderous applause. The workshop was held to nurture and encourage the dreams of students in corporation and government schools.

After releasing *Diary of Dreams* a book that documented the dreams of all the achievers of Ullas, he fielded students' queries - on everything from his icon to the nuclear deal. He spoke of his fifth standard teacher Sivasubramaniam Iyer, who encouraged him to fly. When it came to the nuclear deal, his answer was brief. "The Indo-US nuclear deal is very important to the country and it will definitely help us," he said.

Kalam then went to the centenary celebrations of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer at the Music Academy. He called for establishing a dynamic musical institution by converting the legend's house in Semmangudi to a museum. He also released a coffee table book, 'Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer: life, music.' In his special address, he said, "Semmangudi was a nadha brahmam (someone who lived solely for music) first as a student then as a guru, and it is our bounden duty to serve Carnatic music. Let us establish a museum by 2010 where rasikas, artistes and researchers can benefit," he said.

THE HINDU

Former President felicitates young toppers

Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam felicitated young toppers from corporation, government and government-aided schools at a function organised by the Ullas Trust at the Madras University Centenary Auditorium here on Friday.

He reiterated his message that children should work towards bridging the rural-urban divide and bring economic prosperity to the country.

The Trust earlier held its 11th annual workshop, bringing together mentors and students supported by it to expose them to achievers and role models.

Mr. Kalam released a book, 'Diary of Dreams,' a compilation of the aspirations expressed by students attending the workshop.



Inspires kids to realise dreams

Former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam released the "Diary of Dreams" which was given to children of Ullas Trust for their achievements at the 11th Annual Ullas Workshop held here on Friday.

The diary is a compilation of their dreams and an action plan to realize the same. Addressing 2,500 children from various schools in the city, Kalam inspired the kids to realize the 'power of their dreams'.

He answered all the questions posed by the children ranging from why does Kalam love children to why it is important to dream. "Children have the power to dream big and as one gets older, the dreams become limited," noted Kalam.

He also said the only factor lacking with the children was the attitude of "I can do it". Teachers needed to have a combination of both good quality teaching and research, he pointed out.

Kalam explained the three important components of knowledge-creativity, righteousness and courage.

The Ullas Trust was established in 1997 by Polaris employees with 32 students. It recognizes academic excellence in students of Corporation and government schools. It has awarded 20,000 scholarships to students from Tamil Nadu, Mumbai and Delhi.



Nuclear deal is very important for India: Kalam

Former President A P J Abdul Kalam today said the Indo-US nuclear deal was very important for the country and India should go for it.

Replying to queries raised by various students at the 11th Annual Ullas Trust workshop organised by Polaris Software Lab here, he said, "the Indo-US deal is very important to us".

For another query on why he likes children very much, he said the children were unbiased and innocent.

The former president also lauded a girl student who asked him why Indian scientists prefer to work in NASA helping the United States than working in India. Kalam replied, "Science is borderless. There is nothing wrong in that."

As an advice to the students, he urged them to be creative and have righteousness plus courage so that they would be more knowledgeable person.

"Being creative leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge and knowledge makes you great," Kalam said.

He said that villages should have facilities like that in urban areas.

"Under the PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas) scheme we have to provide facilities like transportation, telecommunication, education to rural areas as the culmination of these facilities will yield economic growth of the country since 70 per cent of the country's population live in villages," he said.

Earlier, after inaugurating a lab at the Madras Institute of Technology here, Kalam said the country should produce 50,000 MW of nuclear energy by 2030. He called for an annual growth of five per cent in the energy sector.



N-deal very important for India: Kalam

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