

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE DIGITAL TRIBUTE TO 11TH PRESIDENT OF INDIA, BHARAT
RATNA DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM ORGANISED BY DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION, HOUSE OF KALAM, RAMESWARAM
ON 27.07.2020 AT 11.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru D. Jayakumar

Minister for Fisheries and Personnel
and Administrative Reforms

Dr. APJM. Nazeema Maraikayar,

Managing Trustee,
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation

Thiru. APJMJ. Shiek Dawood

Co-Founder,
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation

Thiru. APJMJ. Shiek Saleem,

Co-Founder,
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation

Distinguished Invitees

All on-line Viewers

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a privilege to be a part of this 5th commemoration of former President the Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam organised here by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam International Foundation. A meaningful journey was terminated five years back with the demise of a noble

soul. The nation and the humanity will always miss the unique man.

The Foundation founded by Thiru. A.P.J. Mohammed Muthu Maraikayar and other members of the family is engaged in the realization of the goal of making India a fully developed country as was envisioned by Dr. Abdul Kalam.

Looking at the glorious chronicles of the life of our beloved Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, it comes as no surprise that he had the chance of passing away while doing what he loved to do – teaching. In this connection, we can fondly recall his words, and I Quote,

“If people will remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honour for me.” He had said this in an interview to a national daily on Teacher’s Day, the year before his death.

Born as Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, Dr. Kalam has many extraordinary achievements to his credit. After India found its Missile Man in his scientific genius, the poet, and writer, he was chosen to head the nation as the 11th President of India and conferred “Bharat Ratna” the nation’s highest honour. However, his journey as a teacher went on unabated, as he continued to touch the lives and ignite the minds of everyone he came across. He was lovingly called ‘The People’s President’.

He had a penchant for interacting with the young minds of the country with whom he connected so well, raising issues that may appear even beyond the capacity of the youngsters to solve. Famously, once Dr. Kalam posted a question on Yahoo asking, what we should do to free our planet from terrorism. That post showed his innate faith in the young generation's worth to lead the humanity in the future. Visiting innumerable schools around the country, Dr. Kalam actively engaged thousands of children with whom he often shared anecdotes from his own childhood as a boatman's son in Rameshwaram, citing examples from the struggles and experiences of his life. A man who rose to hold the highest office in the nation by the sheer virtue of hard work and intelligence he always encouraged the students to give better than the best for the fulfillment of their goals.

His love and admiration for the generation of tomorrow were reciprocated with the same passion and he was indeed the apple of children's eyes. Not only did he open the gates and lawns of the Rashtrapati Bhavan to school students and children, but also took time to listen to their ideas, gave feedback and even followed up on occasions on the status of implementation. He continued to share his vision with the medium of writing, something he loved to do and fervently pursued, till the end of his life, penning many books including his remarkable autobiography 'Wings of Fire'.

We need a carrier of eternal goodness and wholesomeness in human conduct, which is called 'righteousness'. As we say in India:

'Where there is righteousness in the heart,
There is beauty in the character.
When there is beauty in the character,
There is harmony in the home.
When there is harmony in the home,
There is order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation,
There is peace in the world.'

This is true for the whole world. When we need peace in the world, we need order in the nation. We need harmony in the home. Whether in Europe or in India or in any part of the world, the origin is righteousness in the heart.

Though his departure five years ago created a massive vacuum in the scientific community, and left the country to deal with a profound loss that cannot be compensated, it is the children of India who will miss him the most.

But never shall he be forgotten, for he will continue to live in our minds and hearts for generations to come.

Dr.Kalam enjoyed every minute of his illustrious life enriched by the wonderful association from each one of you, hailing from

different walks of life, be it politics, science and technology, academics, arts, literature, business, judiciary, administration, local bodies, farming, home-makers, special children, media and above all from the youth and student community who are the future wealth of our country.

Dr. Kalam was touched by the variety of Indian panorama, emotional content of the tone, cultural diversity and unity of minds in the vast land of ours. He had cited these examples just to give a glimpse of the richness of our tradition and effort being taken by different agencies to preserve it. There are also many new adventures by institutions and individuals. He had experienced many of them and learnt a lot about our country and our people. Even while pursuing our economic growth, we need to do a lot to preserve the rich and diverse treasures of our culture and civilization. It is our duty for our future generations. This has to be done on a much larger scale through countrywide participation of multiple institutions. Our country is blessed with natural resources, has shown considerable progress in the last seventy years, and above all we have hard working people. In particular, we have the power of the 540 million youth of the country. Every sector of our country has given the youth the confidence that India can become a developed nation in the near future. Whomsoever Dr.Kalam met, he asked what he or she could give to the nation.

We should constantly strive to empower such members of the society. With this spirit, I am extremely happy that we are on the right path. Here I am reminded of a famous poem:

"When you wish upon a star,
Makes no difference who you are,
Anything your heart desires,
Will come to you?"

This poem is true for all of us, and particularly for our youth. If they aim high and great, I am sure they will reach the target or at least go close to it.

Any developing country would dream to work towards the goal of attaining the "Developed Country" title. Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam dreamt of a mission that visualized our country to be in the league of developed nations. He formulated a road map to attain that vision. He wanted the development in the rural sector; effectively close the gap with the urban sector. Every citizen should have access to the basic resources required for sustenance. Exploring renewable energy, upliftment through education, health care for all and corruption free governance are few of the missions that have to be worked upon. We, as a nation, have almost reached the deadline and the path towards the goal might look like a difficult terrain to walk through. But, if every

citizen is instilled with the zeal to achieve these goals with honesty, no force can stop us from achieving the ultimate.

Dr. Kalam once said to young people, “Dream is not which you see while sleeping. It is something that does not let you sleep.” By saying so, he was urging us to aim higher and work to achieve our goal in life. He said, “One of the very important characteristics of a student is to question. Let the students ask questions”. By saying so, he stressed on the need for a healthy interaction between the students and the teacher, and how curiosity in the students helps in expanding their repertoire of knowledge. When he said that “The best brains of the nation may be found on the last benches of the classroom”, he did not want to underestimate any child and that every child is talented in one way or the other. When he said, “Don’t read success stories, you will only get a message. Read failure stories, you will get some ideas to get success”, he implied how failure is never a downfall rather it is a tool to strengthen our path to success. And this way he has inspired generations with his speech and quotes which would remain etched in the history of our country forever.

I wish to conclude by recalling my earlier association with Dr. Abdul Kalam in the Defence Consultative Committee of Parliament. His sharp mind, his sense of humour, his sense of purpose, and his respect for all were his special traits that made

him so very special. I realised how simply he lived, and how usefully!

Dr. Abdul 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 high thinking. I am sure that Dr. Kalam's message will make India the Jagat-guru of the world.

I appreciate Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation for having taken pains to organise this function. I extend my best wishes and greetings to them. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours. May India march ahead with Dr. Abdul 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.....

Jai Tamil Nadu.....