

Speech by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

My dear young friends,

I am delighted to address you today. It gives me immense pleasure to stand before the bright minds of the nation the youth of India, the true strength of our society.

Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action. You have to dream before your dreams can come true. Great dreams of great dreamers are always transcended.

Let me share with you a vision. The vision of a developed India. An India that is free from poverty, free from illiteracy, and free from corruption. An India where every citizen has access to clean water, quality education, affordable healthcare, and opportunities for growth. This vision can only be realized when each one of us decides to be a part of the change.

My message, especially to young people, is to have courage to think differently, to invent, to travel the unexplored path, to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities that they must work towards. This is my message to the young people.

Be active! Take responsibility! Work with integrity and succeed with integrity.

If you want to shine like the sun, first burn like the sun. To achieve success, you must be willing to face challenges. Struggles are a part of life. They are not meant to paralyze you, but to help you discover who you are. Every pain you endure carves a better version of you.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. When learning is

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creative, it leads to thinking. Thinking provides knowledge. Knowledge makes you great.

My young friends, never stop fighting until you arrive at your destined place that is, the unique you. Have an aim in life, continuously acquire knowledge, work hard, and have perseverance to realize the great life.

I want to leave you with five important points to ponder and practice:

1. Aim high. Set your goals far above the ground. The higher you aim, the greater you achieve.
2. Acquire knowledge. Read books, explore science and technology, learn history and understand your culture.
3. Work hard. Nothing worthwhile comes easy. Hard work, with smart direction, always leads to results.
4. Be righteous. Integrity in thought and action is the foundation of a great character.
5. Never give up. Failures are stepping stones. Learn from them and move forward with renewed strength.

One of the best ways to achieve national transformation is to build a generation of empowered youth. You are the ignited minds of India. You are the future of our country. The energy, the creativity, the passion that resides within each one of you can shape our nations destiny.

Finally, remember this the nation will be great only when all of us individually and collectively believe in ourselves, believe in our dreams, and work together for the betterment of our society.

May you rise with the sun of hope and walk the path of courage and commitment.

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Thank you and Jai Hind!