

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, known as the "Missile Man of India" and the 11th President of India, delivered numerous inspiring speeches throughout his life, often centered around themes of education, youth empowerment, and national development. Here's an excerpt from one of his most famous speeches, which he delivered at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad in 2011, emphasizing the power of dreams, resilience, and contribution to the nation:

---

**\*\*"I Will Fly"\*\***

"I have three visions for India. In 3000 years of our history, people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards, the Greeks, the Turks, the Mughals, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch – all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet, we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others. That is why I have a first vision for India - Freedom."\*

"My second vision for India is Development. For fifty years we have been a developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation. We are among the top five nations of the world in terms of GDP. We have 10 percent growth rate in most areas. Our poverty levels are falling. Our achievements are being globally recognized today. Yet we lack the self-confidence to see ourselves as a developed nation, self-reliant and self-assured. Isn't this incorrect?"\*

"I have a third vision. India must stand up to the world. Because I believe that unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand-in-hand."\*

"Why is the media here so negative? Why are we in India so embarrassed to recognize our own strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories, but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why? We are the first in milk production. We are number one in Remote sensing satellites. We are the second largest producer of wheat. We are the second largest producer of rice."\*

"You say that our government is inefficient. You say that our laws are too old. You say that the municipality does not pick up the garbage. You say that the phones don't work, the railways are a joke, the airline is the worst in the world, mails never reach their destination. You say that our country has been fed to the dogs and is the absolute pits. Nothing can ever change for the better. You say that. What do YOU do about it?"\*

"I am echoing J.F. Kennedy's words to his fellow Americans to relate to Indians ... 'Ask what we can do for India and do what has to be done to make India what America and other western countries are today.' Let's do what India needs from us. We have to build a developed India. That is my dream for you."\*

---

Dr. Kalam's speeches continue to inspire millions to pursue their dreams, contribute to society, and work towards a progressive and self-reliant India. His vision for the country was built on the ideals of resilience, scientific curiosity, and the drive to bring about positive change.