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PRESIDENT REVEALS SUCCESS MANTRA



President APJ Abdul Kalam along with the BHU Vice-chancellor Prof Panjab Singh exchanging views

President APJ Abdul Kalam was overwhelmed with the response of the Banaras Hindu University students while addressing the University's 88th convocation.

The curiosity of the students, hanging on his every word seemed to have evoked strong feelings in him, which perhaps urged him to request them to serve the nation and succeed in life. "I have a 15 page convocation address to deliver on this occasion, but here I would like to share some of my experiences with the students," he said. And, keeping his formal convocation address aside he not only shared his experiences with the students but also made them take oaths to lead a purposeful and successful life. As if taking part in a swearing-in ceremony, all the students promptly repeated the 'keywords' pronounced by the President.

"You need courage to be, successful in life. Take an oath to display courage while facing defeat, discover the impossible, overcome problems with courage and work for the prosperity of the nation," he said and made the students repeat the pledge, "I will pursue my

education and work with dedication; I will teach at least five persons to read and write; I will plant 10 saplings and ensure their growth; I will not support any religious or caste differences; I will be honest and endeavour for a corruption-free society." He not only gave them oaths but also explained how they could be materialized in life.

He exhorted the students to develop the quality of leadership that would help them in facing problems in life. Giving an example of true leadership, he spoke about his guru and scientist Prof Satish Dhawan, who made him project director for launching the SLV-3 in 1972. "After a seven year rigorous work on the project, the day came when the SLV-3 was launched on August 18 1979, but it was a failure," he said adding that showing the spirit of leadership, Dhawan took the responsibility of the failure on him, and when the launching was successful next year he gave its credit to the entire team of scientists. "It is the leadership that has courage to face the failure," he said.

In his 30-minute extempore speech, he did not forget to mention the names of his ideals who had served the nation in great ways. "I had a great

teacher, Prof Vikram Sarabhai in 1966, who gave the country a space programme," he said adding that it was the vision of Sarabhai that India today could build any type of rocket and space craft. He also mentioned the names for C Subramaniam, the then food minister, and scientists Prof Swaminathan and Prof Vegese Kurian for bringing the green revolution and making the country self-reliant in food grain and dairy production.

Appreciating the academic atmosphere of BHU, the President, who is also the visitor of the university, said he was delighted to be on the campus, which was established and nurtured by the great visionary, Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya. "I salute Malaviyaji who gifted an institution, which has become a shining star in the galaxy," he said.

Recalling his first visit to BHU in 1991, he said, "At that time, I was, introduced by the then Maharaja of Banaras the late Dr Vibhuti Narain Singh, who described me as a man from Rameshwaram to Kashi," he said adding that his native place Rameshwaram also has a Shiva temple.

