

# '60 yrs on, I realized I wanted to teach'

## Kalam Tells Kids To Work For Social Causes

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** Space scientist and former president of India APJ Abdul Kalam wanted to take just two questions from the audience. An enthusiastic Aditya Kannan, VII grade from DES North School, was the first one to shoot. "How do you feel, from being a space scientist to President and now a professor?"

Kalam replied: "After 60 years of government service, I realized that I wanted to be a teacher and not a professor."

Aditya later told TOI that he also wanted to know whether Kalam likes to be hounded by security guards and shutterbugs. "I saw he wasn't even allowed to walk freely and was hounded by guards and photographers constantly. I would have felt that irritating," he said.

The JN Tata Auditorium on the IISc campus was bustling with schoolchildren who had gathered to listen to Kalam. He inaugurated the five-day Parikarma festival of science start-



### THUS SPAKE KALAM

How did you come to politics after pursuing science, asks a student

**Kalam:** I had prepared a Vision 2020 plan and thought I could market this if I was chosen President.

**Student:** I want to work in the field of measuring atoms. How do I do that?

**Kalam:** You are made of millions and millions of atoms. Measuring atoms is a big field and some attempt has been made. It's a challenging field nonetheless.

### 'FLY ON WINGS OF KNOWLEDGE'

The mood was upbeat at the United International School, off Hennur, on Monday. Students listened in rapt attention as the man credited with addressing 15 million children (as live audience) spoke. "I have confidence I will fly. I am born with goodness and trust, potential, ideas and dreams, greatness, confidence and wings - so I am not meant for crawling. I will fly," was the first path he administered to the youngsters. Kalam, who recalled his teacher Iyer, said proper education through inspirational teachers gives children wings to fly. "As a 18-year-old, studying in a thatched-roof school in Rameshwaram, I got wings of knowledge. My science and math teacher Iyer radiated knowledge. He was a Sanskrit and Tamil scholar and an expert in Shakespeare. Our class of 65 students respected his knowledge and he taught us the way of life," he said.



**CURIOUS LOT:** Over 200 Children from 20 schools from across Bengaluru will participate in the five-day Parikarma festival of science, which former President APJ Abdul Kalam inaugurated at JN Tata Auditorium on Monday

ing at GKVA (University of Agricultural Sciences) from January 19 to 25 theme: conservation of water bodies. And this is how he began: "I have seen Va-

ni the Mohan in Coimbatore who called me to inaugurate a lake. Years ago, she discovered that the lake was lost and had historical significance. She finally re-

stored the lake. You all must go to temples, mosques and churches of rural India to find water bodies that existed there in the past and restore them. Get some soil

and mud stains on your lab coats..." He also shared his e-mail ID (apj@abdualkalam.com) with students and promised to reply to each of them.