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CAMPUS CONNECT

CLASS APART

In His Four-Hour Session, Professor Kalam Studied Every Student's Synopsis, Discussed And Encouraged Debates

Vasundhara Vyas Mehta | TNN

His energy levels amazed them. Former president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam stood through the threehour class that extended to four, patiently taking questions, leading debates, creating a dialogue, at his first session in IIM-A on Saturday morning. After all it was not just another professor but the 'teacher of teachers', as Professor Anil Gupta introduced him. With this Kalam entered the list of visiting faculty.

The 60 students chosen for this course got a fair idea of Kalam's energy levels on Friday evening itself when he arrived on the campus and sought to meet the students. When he met them he declared, "I am prepared."

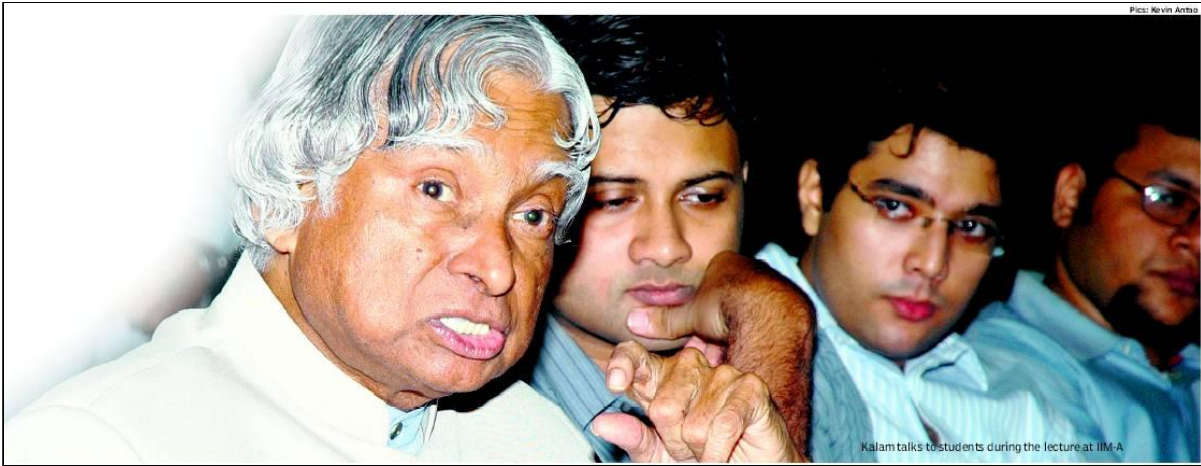
"The scheduled three hours of Kalam's class extended to almost four and was followed by another discussion session soon after lunch. Kalam was very well prepared but we are glad we could match up to his expectations," said Srijan Pal Singh, general secretary of Students' Council and a participant of the course.

Learning from Kalam was something very different for these IIM-A students. Not only because he was a former president but because he taught through his experiences. "Kalam has this amazing tendency to connect with people. His opening line in the class was, 'who would you want to be remembered as the founder of an institute like IIM-A'," said another student.

They described how Kalam had studied each of their synopsis and had the class discuss them and make observations.

The issue that was most discussed was pillar 4 of the 10 pillars, which talked about reservation in education. When initially students were a little quiet on the issue, the former president instigated the students to have a hot debate on the issues of finite reservation, creamy layer and reservation on economic basis.

After almost two hours when Professor Gupta interrupted suggesting a break, Kalam laughed and said, "I don't need a break. If you guys are feeling tired, take a break." But the students hardly gave him a break, as they gathered around him to get his autograph on his book, click pictures or just take a closer look.



Kalam talks to students during the lecture at IIM-A

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THE TIMES OF INDIA
epaper

More youth should join politics: Kalam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Former president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam exhorted youth to join politics as he recalled with nostalgia his days with Dr Vikram Sarabhai who founded Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A).

Dr Kalam was at IIM-A for the first of his sessions on Globalising Resurgent India through Innovative Transformation (GRIT), a course under Vision 2020 he designed with Professor Anil Gupta for a select group of students.

Addressing a press conference after the first session, Kalam urged youth to join politics. "There are number of people who are ready to become engineers, doctors, managers and so on but hardly five per cent want to join politics. Youth can play a major role by joining politics," he said.

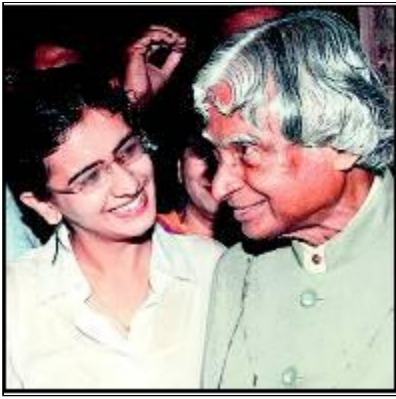
For a secure and bright future of the country, he said, "We should provide value-based education to our children. Central and state government should ensure that development reaches all in the country. Only then we would be able to create a peaceful society and all good men should join in the good work which is in the interest of the country."

He said, "I am very happy to be here as this institution was founded by Dr Vikram Sarabhai, a visionary man and pioneer of India's success story of space science, satellite revolution and management education. I worked with him in late 1960s."

Commenting on the recent Singur issue, Dr Kalam said, "Farmers should be a partner in any development process. Their children should get proper education."

He emphasised on "employability" and said, "Today millions of graduates come out from different universities. They are all employment seekers," said Kalam.





(Left) Professor Kalam and other faculty members pass through IIM-A campus in the rains. (Above) A student smiles during an interaction



Kalam is open to ideas and has a simple solution to complex problems. After his lecture, I have understood that social sector needs urgent attention. His concept 'Vision 2020' is something every corporate should connect and contribute to

Chandra Prawal

PROJECT TOPIC: PRIMARY EDUCATION



He is much older than us, but his energy is inversely proportional to age. I liked the fact that Kalam involved each of us in his presentation. The slides had some points from the synopsis we had submitted and there was enough time for discussion

Sanjay Chaturvedi

PROJECT TOPIC: POVERTY ERADICATION



He has amazing energy levels and is meticulous, which is exemplary. Since his lecture was being webcast, my daughter refused to go to school as she wanted to watch it live. She even gave me a question that she wanted to ask him

Ajay Shah

PROJECT TOPIC: RESERVATION IN EDUCATION



He is one of the few people who can address the softer issues and still make sense. In his class, we learnt of each others' experience also. He has a brilliant ability to link different issues

Prasad Hanchate

PROJECT TOPIC: WATER



Meeting the former president has given me a new perspective into India's affairs. His numerous instances and case studies have given food for thought. I will have to brush up my geography to understand his concepts better

Sarah Foster

PROJECT TOPIC: RESERVATION IN EDUCATION