

TEACHERS' DAY ADDRESS

by

CHAIRMAN, AEES

5th September 2026

Respected Chief Guest, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy

Dr L M Pant, Secretary, AEES

Dr P A Hassan, Director, Bio Science Group, BARC & Chairman, LMC, AECS/ JC, Mumbai

Special Invitee & our distinguished Alumnus, Dr Anuj Agnihotri

Members of the Governing Council and Local Management Committee;

Distinguished Invitees

Dr Kamlesh Kumar, Principal & Head Academic Unit

Mr Neeraj Kumar Blahatia, Co-ordinating Principal

Principals, Vice-Principals and, above all, my dear teachers of Atomic Energy Central Schools & Junior College, Mumbai

My colleagues from Central Office, AEES

Good Morning Everyone

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege to be part of this special occasion—the **celebration of Teachers' Day**. On this day, I am reminded of the opening invocation of my childhood school prayer - *Asato Ma Sadgamaya, Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya*.

In Indian culture, a teacher (*Guru*) is seen as the earthly embodiment of **Goddess Saraswati**, transitioning a student from the darkness of ignorance to the light of wisdom. While Saraswati Puja celebrates the divine source of this light, Teachers' Day honours the human catalysts who practically bring that light into our lives.

This day gives us an opportunity not only to express our gratitude and affection towards our teachers but also to remember and pay tribute to one of India's greatest teachers, philosophers, and statesmen, **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**,

whose life remains an enduring symbol of the nobility of the teaching profession.

Today, we are not merely celebrating a profession. We are celebrating a **force that has shaped human civilisation.**

Empires have risen and disappeared. Technologies have transformed. Scientific theories have evolved. But behind every enduring transformation, there has always been a teacher—someone who asked a question, awakened curiosity, challenged an assumption, or believed in a young mind before that young mind believed in itself.

I therefore believe that **the history of civilisation can also be read as the history of great teachers.**

More than two thousand years ago, **Socrates** taught not by giving ready-made answers, but by asking questions.

That lesson has become even more important today.

We live in an age in which Artificial Intelligence can provide an answer in seconds. Therefore, perhaps the most valuable thing a teacher can give a student is not another answer, but **a better question.**

And this spirit of inquiry is deeply rooted in India's own intellectual tradition. The Upanishadic tradition conceived education as a dialogue between the teacher and the learner—a shared search for truth. Education, therefore, is not merely the transmission of information. **It is the awakening of the mind.**

India has always recognised the power of education in nation-building. **Chanakya** understood that the strength of a nation ultimately depends upon the quality of its people and institutions.

The Atomic Energy Education Society has a distinctive responsibility of providing holistic education that is value-based and responsive to the needs of a changing India. As educators working within the DAE family, you have the opportunity to inspire young minds towards scientific temper, innovation and nation-building. In the classrooms of our thirty Atomic Energy Central Schools spread across the country, it is your patience, your dedication, and your unwavering belief in the potential of each child that transform ordinary lessons into lifelong inspiration. You are the quiet architects of the future of our nation. Your commitment to these values has enabled our students to flourish not only in academics but in sports, arts, values, and civic responsibility. Whichever

location of our schools you serve, the spirit with which you serve is the same, and it is what makes AEES truly special.

That insight is profoundly relevant to our vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

Viksit Bharat is not merely about economic growth or infrastructure. It requires citizens with **knowledge, capability, confidence, integrity and a spirit of innovation**. Every teacher is therefore, in a very real sense, a **nation-builder**.

Swami Vivekananda reminded us that education is the **manifestation of the potential already within the individual**. This is a powerful message for every teacher. Every child possesses possibilities that may not be immediately visible. The great teacher looks beyond marks and examinations.

C. V. Raman showed us how curiosity can become discovery.

For the Department of Atomic Energy and AEES, the legacy of **Dr. Homi J. Bhabha** has an especially deep significance.

Bhabha understood that India's scientific strength could not depend merely upon importing technology. India had to develop its own **scientific capabilities, institutions and scientific minds**.

He created institutions, nurtured talent and encouraged young scientists to ask ambitious questions.

That vision continues to be relevant.

We are not merely educating children to use the technologies created by others.

We must educate the generation that will create the technologies of tomorrow. This is the responsibility of AEES.

Our schools must become places where students are encouraged to question, experiment, innovate and attempt the seemingly impossible.

We must also remember **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, who carried the spirit of science directly to the hearts and minds of young people. He not only taught young people to dream—but also to transform dreams into disciplined effort and achievement. That is the message we must give our students. The teacher must help the student decide which solution is **meaningful, ethical and appropriate**.

I would also like to say a special word to our Principals and Vice-Principals. Educational leadership is not simply the administration of a school. It is the

creation of an **intellectual climate**. A great school is one where teachers are encouraged to innovate, students feel free to ask difficult questions, failure becomes an opportunity to learn, and excellence is pursued with confidence rather than fear.

Our Principals and Vice-Principals must therefore create schools where both **discipline and creativity**, both **excellence and empathy**, can flourish together.

The teachers of AEES are not merely preparing students for examinations or careers.

You are preparing a generation that will shape India's scientific, technological, ethical and human destiny.

Dear teachers,

You stand at a remarkable point in history.

Behind you is the accumulated knowledge of thousands of years.

Around you is a world transformed by science and technology.

And before you are young minds that will inherit a world we cannot yet fully imagine.

You are the bridge between the knowledge of yesterday and the possibilities of tomorrow.

Teach your students not to fear the unknown.

Teach them to investigate it.

Teach them not merely to accept the future.

Teach them to create it.

And when the India of 2047 looks back at the classrooms of 2026, may it be able to say:

There were teachers who did not merely prepare students for the future.

There were teachers who prepared the future for India.

I am deeply conscious of the challenges you navigate every day — balancing academic rigour with individual attention, embracing new pedagogies and

technology, and constantly striving to keep pace with an ever-evolving educational landscape. Your resilience and adaptability continue to inspire the entire AEES fraternity. I take this moment to acknowledge the countless unseen hours you invest — preparing lessons, correcting notebooks, mentoring the hesitant, encouraging the talented, and guiding every child with empathy and care. Your role has grown well beyond the classroom; you are mentors, guides, and often the steadiest influence in a student's life. The Department of Atomic Energy and the Governing Council of AEES recognise and deeply value your contribution.

On this Teachers' Day, on behalf of the Department of Atomic Energy and the Governing Council of the Atomic Energy Education Society, I salute each one of you.

May you continue to **ignite curiosity, cultivate scientific temper, nurture character, inspire innovation and awaken the extraordinary possibilities within every child.**

And may the young minds of AEES contribute to an India that is **scientifically confident, technologically self-reliant, intellectually vibrant, ethically responsible and deeply humane.**

I end with this closing shloka from my childhood school prayer:

ॐ सहना ववतु। सहनौ भुनक्तु। सह वीर्यं करवावहै।
तेजस्वि नावधी तमस्तु मा विद्विषा वहै॥
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः॥

Happy Teachers' Day to all of you.
Jai Hind!