

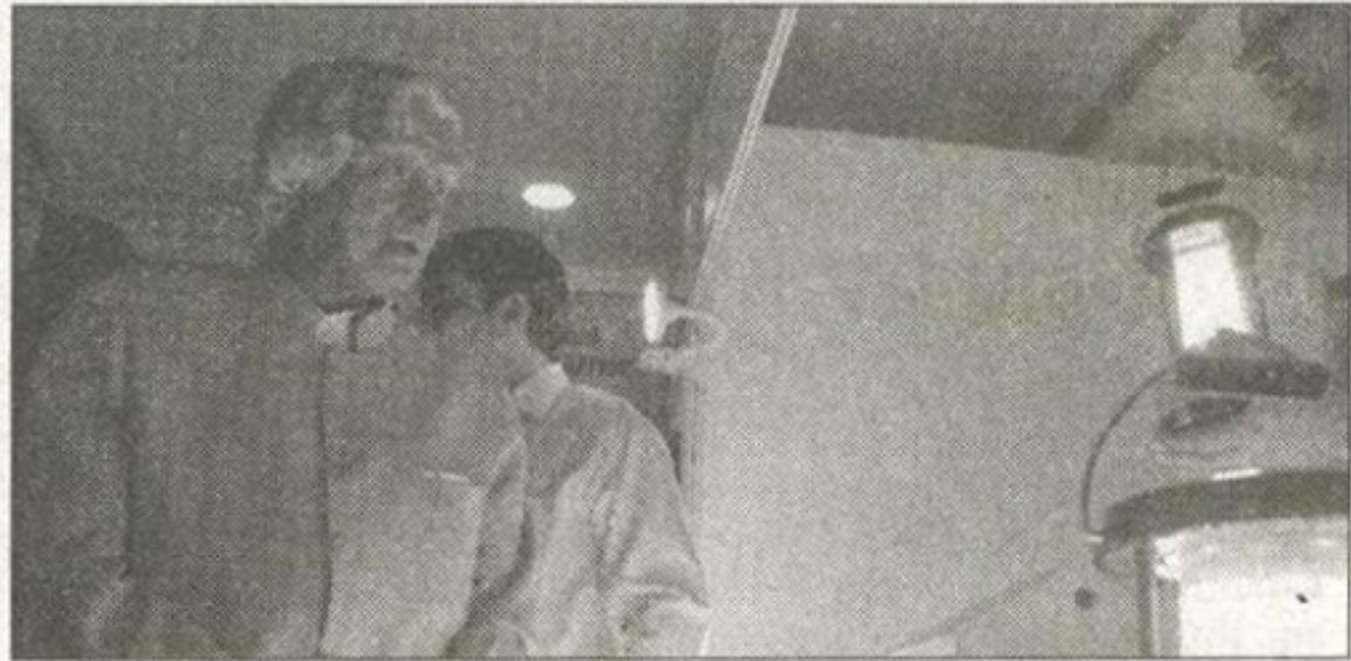
Mumbai's green dream not impossible: Kalam

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MUMBAI

Dec. 18: Former president Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam inspired and encouraged his audience on Friday, suggesting that making Mumbai green was not a distant dream, and said that if the mission is carried out with seriousness, planting several billion new trees was not a tough task.

Dr Kalam visited the city on Friday to inaugurate the first international conference of Vishwa 2009 promoting eco-friendly business solutions. In his speech, Dr Kalam spoke about the mission to plant ten billion trees for the world. He concluded his speech by administering an oath to the audience to plant one tree and a hundred if they could. He said, "Human beings are weather makers. They can make the weather friendly or harsh. Planting trees seems like the easiest solution, as a fully



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam inaugurated an international naval exhibition titled Vishva '09 at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Prabhadevi on Friday PHOTO: Amit Haralkar

mature tree can take in 20 kg of carbon dioxide and emit 14 kg of oxygen, which is ofcourse a huge amount."

When asked how it could be possible to plant trees in a city like Mumbai, which is falling short of space every day, he said, "I will not buy that excuse. To plant trees there should be no second thoughts. There is ample place for greenery in our world."

Dr Kalam gave a solution to soaring prices too by planting trees. He said, "As

far as people's health is concerned, one should opt for fibrous food. It is definitely costly and the only solution to make it cheaper is to plant trees. So, again we came to the same point and that will make a great difference." He also suggested the idea of using biofuel for transportation instead of petrol and diesel.

He also asked people to keep the green policy in mind even as they are focussed on moving ahead in one's career.