

A P J A Abdul Kalam



Avul Pakir Jainul Abedeen Abdul Kalam was born on 1st October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Kalam rose from a humble background to great heights and became President of India on July 25, 2002.

Dr. Kalam did his B.Sc. at the St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, and later studied Aeronautical Engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology during 1954-57.

He then joined DRDO in 1958 and become its Director in 1982. Dr. Kalam is called, and deservedly too, the father of rocket technology in India. Under his leadership, the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme took place. He also made significant contribution, as project director, to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV), which successfully placed the Rohini's Satellite in the near Earth Orbit. Dr. Kalam was also instrumental in developing indigenous guided missiles at Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

He was largely credited with the development of AGNI and PRITHVI missiles. He was the Scientific Advisor to the Defense Ministry and Secretary Defense research and development from July 1992 to December 1999. Dr. Kalam occupied many important positions in India. He was Chairman of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). Dr. Kalam received numerous awards and honours. He received honorary Doctorate from 30 Universities. He wrote several books, which have been translated in many Indian languages.

Dr. Kalam was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padmavishusan in 1990 and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna in 1997. He took up Professor-ship in technology and social transformation at Anna University from November 2001. Dr. Kalam became the eleventh President of India on 25th July 2002. His mission is to

transform India into a modern technological and developed nation by 2020. Dr. Kalam gave the 38th Convocational Address in Indian Statistical Institute on 27th February 2004. The title of his talk was 'Statistics and its Multi-dimensions'.

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