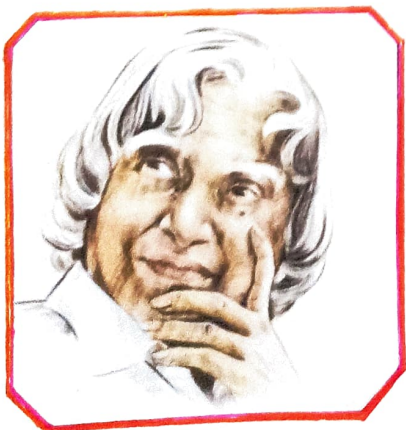




APJ Abdul
Kalam



Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 to a Tamil Muslim family in the pilgrimage centre of Rameswaram on Pamban Island, then in the Madras Presidency and now in the State of Tamil Nadu. His father Jainulabdeen was a boat owner and imam of a local mosque, his mother Ashiamma was a housewife. His father owned a ferry that took Hindu pilgrims back and forth between Rameswaram and the now uninhabited Dhanushkodi. Kalam was the youngest of four brothers and one sister in his family. His ancestors had been wealthy traders and landowners, with numerous properties and large tracts of land. Their businesses had involved trading groceries between the mainland and the island and to and from Sri Lanka, as well as ferrying pilgrims between the mainland and Pamban. As a result, the family acquired the title of "Mara Kalam Iyakkivar", which over the years became shortened to "Marakkar".

~~At~~ With the opening of the Pamban Bridge to the mainland in 1914, however, the businesses failed and the family fortune and properties were lost over time, apart from the ancestral home. By his early childhood, Kalam's family had become poor, at an early age, he sold newspapers to supplement his family's income.

After graduation from the Madras Institute of Technology in 1960, Kalam joined the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation as a scientist after becoming a member of the Defence Research and Development Service. He started his career by designing a small hovercraft, but remained unconvinced by his choice of a job at DRDO. Kalam was also part of INCOSPAR committee working under Vikram Sarabhai, the renowned space scientist. In 1969, Kalam was transferred to the Indian Space Research Organisation where he was the project director of India's first satellite launch vehicle which successfully ~~launched~~ deployed the Rohini satellite in near-earth orbit in July 1980; Kalam had first started work on an expendable rocket project independently at DRDO in 1965. In 1969, Kalam received the government's approval and expanded the programme to include more engineers. In 1963 to 1964, he visited NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia; Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland; and Wallops Flight Facility. Between the 1970s and 1990s, Kalam made an effort to develop the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and SLV-III projects, both of which proved to be successful.

Kalam was the youngest of five siblings, the eldest of whom was a sister, Asim Zohra, followed by three elder brothers: Mohammed Muthu Meera Sebra Maraikayar, Mustafa Kalam and Kasim Muhammed. He was extremely close to his elder siblings and their extended families throughout his life, and would regularly send small sums of money to his older relations, himself remaining a lifelong bachelor.

Kalam was noted for his integrity and his simple lifestyle. He never owned a television, and was in habit of rising at 6:30 or 7 am. and ~~was~~ ~~in~~ sleeping by 2 a.m. His few personal possessions included his books, his veena, some articles of clothing, a CD player and a laptop; at his death, he left no will and his possessions went to his eldest brother, who survived him.

TOPIC

Presidency

DATE

Kalam served as the 11th President of India, succeeding KR Narayanan. He won the 2002 presidential election with an electoral vote of 922,884, surpassing the 107,366 votes won by Lakshmi Sarvagal. His term lasted from 25 July 2002 to 25 July 2007.

On 10 June 2002, the National Democratic Alliance which was in power at that time, expressed that they would nominate Kalam for the post of President and both the Samajwadi Party and the Nationalist Congress Party backed his candidacy. After the Samajwadi Party announced its support for Kalam, Narayanan chose not to seek a second term in office, leaving the field clear. Kalam said of the announcement of his candidature :

I am really overwhelmed. Everywhere both in Internet and in other media, I have been asked for a message. I was thinking what message I gave to the people of the country at this juncture

On 18 June, Kalam filed his nomination papers in the Indian Parliament, accompanied by Vajpayee and his senior Cabinet colleagues.

In September 2003 in an interactive session in PGII Chandigarh, Kalam supported the need of Uniform Civil Code in India, keeping in view the population of the Country.

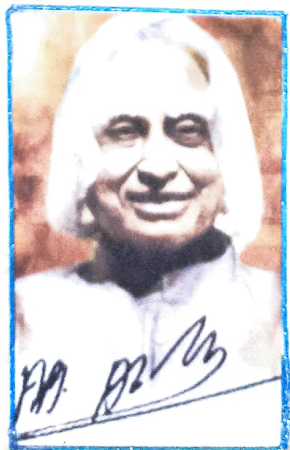
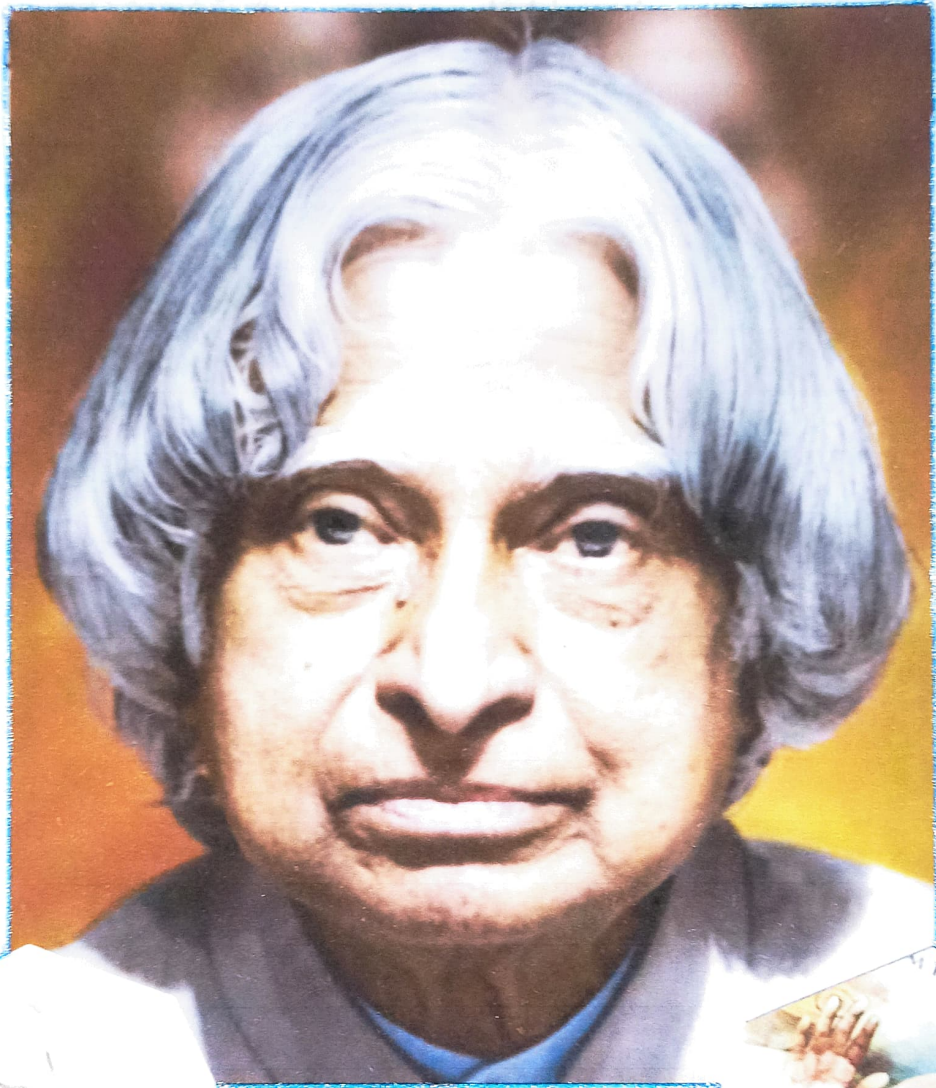
On 27 July 2015, Kalam travelled to Shillong to deliver a lecture on "Creating a Livable Planet Earth" at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong. While climbing a flight of stairs, he experienced some discomfort, but was able to enter the auditorium after a brief rest. At around 6:35 p.m. IST, only five minutes into his lecture, he collapsed. He was rushed to the nearby Bethany Hospital in a critical condition; upon arrival, he ~~to~~ lacked a pulse or any other signs of life. Despite being placed in the intensive care unit, Kalam was confirmed dead of a sudden cardiac arrest at 7:45 p.m. IST. His last words, to his aide Sriyan Pal Singh, were reportedly: "Funny guy! Are you doing well?"

How he inspires me :-

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was a great inspiring personality. He was a great source of inspiration for our youth. Simplicity is one of the best things which we can learn from his attributes. The best thing that I have learned from him is never stop working.

Quotes

Success is when your "Signature" changes to your "Autograph"



Creativity is
seeing the same
thing but
thinking
differently

