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DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM AS A PRESIDENT OF INDIA



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Abstract: Dr A P J Abdul Kalam 12 President of India, is rightfull termed as a father of India's missile technology. Dr Kalam as an eminent Aeronautical engineer, contributed for the development of India's First Satellite launch vehicle SLV-3 and the missiles like Trisul, Agni, Pritvi etc. Kalam advocated plans to develop India into a developed nation by 2020 in his book India 2020. Books authored by him have received considerable demands in South Korea for the translated versions. He has received several prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour. Kalam is known for his motivational speeches and interaction with the student community in India. He launched his mission for the youth of the nation in 2011 called the *What Can I Give Movement* with a central theme to defeat corruption in India. The concept of PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas) was given by our former president Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam

Keywords: President, Research, Literary, Satellite, Election, Political Parties.

I. Introduction

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam is the who exercised his power according to the constitution of India. He has shown the power of the president position. The biblical reference that the meek will inherit the earth comes true about this simple humble man who was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and Bharat Ratna in 1997 as a token of nation's appreciation. His simplicity has always been retained. As principal scientific adviser to the Prime Minister, a cabinet rank post he did not move to a bungalow for him—instead he retained the two rooms in a defence Ministry guest house that had been his home since he headed the DRDO from 1992 to 1999. No one could be a better President for this comparatively poor nation, whose sister had to pawn her jewelers to send him to Chennai for a diploma in engineering from Madras Institute of Technology. The man has changed the very face of the country with his researches in space, building India's first satellite launcher the SLV 3.

In 1980s he also made the country a missile power by developing the Agni and Prithvi. In 1998's Pokharan blast he gave India weapon sing nuclear capability. He believes that India lost its greatness in the past as it became technologically inferior. He firmly believes that such arms deter other nations from attacking or subjugating India and are, therefore, "weapons of peace". When some say that his choice was due to his religion it must irk Kalam. Religion to him has always been an intensely individual quest. He refers to the Bhagvad Gita as often as he does to the Koran. It was the Gita that be quoted when he met reporters in Chennai after his nomination was announced. He would always visit the temple of Lord Ramanathaswamy whenever he is in

Rameswaram. He worked as a Scientist, as a writer and as a president of India.

II. Life Sketch of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam

Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam born on October 15, 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. His parents Jainulabiddin Marakavar and Ashiamma Jainulabiddin. Usually referred to him as Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. He studied his school education at the Rameshwaram. After getting his Elementary School, Kalam went to attend Saint Joseph's College, at Tiruchirappalli, which is affiliated with the <u>University of Madras</u>, from where he graduated in physics in 1954. Towards the end of the course, he was not enthusiastic about the subject and would later regret the four years he studied it. He then moved tMadras in 1955 to study aerospace engineering. While Dr Kalam was working on a senior class project, the Dean was dissatisfied with the lack of progress and threatened revoking his scholarship unless the project was finished within the next two days. He worked tirelessly on his project and met the deadline, impressing the Dean who later said, "I [Dean] was putting you [Kalam] under stress and asking you to meet a difficult deadline".

Dr. Abdul Kalam celebrated his 71st birth day after becoming the first citizen of India. He displays remarkable energy, working late into the night and waking up early to go for a two hour walk. It is his Spartan habits—he is a vegetarian, teetotaler and has never smoked—that allow him to be constantly alert. Abdul Kalam is a bachelor. He is permanently wed to Science and technology that may feel a bit widowed after the groom as President takes the hectic responsibility to host someone or the other every day. His hobbies are calming.

III. Achievements of Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam

Dr Kalam's achievements are given bellow:

A)As a Scientist: Dr Kalam he worked as a great scientist in India across the country. Architect of India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Program, he is a great scientist whose contributions lead to development of India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III) and its successful injection in Rohini satellite in the orbit in July 1980. In a period of 14 years, he introduced a series of new projects like Prithvi, Akash, Agni, Nag and Trishul. He also completed the long pending project, Arjun. It was due to his valuable efforts that India is an exclusive member of Space Club. Dr Kalam started his career by designing a small helicopter for the Indian Army, but remained unconvinced with the choice of his job at DRDO.

His research and educational leadership brought him great laurels and prestige in 1980s, which prompted the government to initiate an advanced missile program under his directorship. Kalam and Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, metallurgist and scientific adviser to the Defense Minister, worked on the suggestion by the then Defense Minister, on a proposal for simultaneous development of a quiver of missiles instead of taking planned missiles one by one. R Venkatraman was instrumental in getting the cabinet approval for allocating 388 crore rupees for the mission, named Integrated (I.G.M.D.P) and appointed Kalam as the Chief Executive.Dr Kalam played a major part in developing many missiles under the mission including Agni, an intermediate range ballistic missile and Prithvi, the tactical surface-to-surface missile, although the projects have been criticized for mismanagement and cost and time overruns.. He was the to the <u>Prime Minister</u> and the Secretary of Defence Research and Development Organization from July 1992 to December 1999. The Pokhran-II nuclear tests were conducted during this period where he played an intensive political and technological role. Dr Kalam served as the Chief Project Coordinator, along with R. Chidambaram during the testing phase.

B)As a Writer: Dr. Kalam is a prominent writer with books like 'Wings of fire', 'India 2020 – A vision for the new millennium',' My journey 'and 'Ignited minds - Unleashing the power within India', 'Envisioning As Empowered Nation',' Development in Fluid Mechanics and Space Technology'. He plays on rudra veena and writes poems in Tamil and then translates them in English having gained popular acclaim and language translations.

C)As a President: Dr Kalam was elected the President of India in 2002, defeating Lakshmi Sahgal and was supported by both the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, the major political parties of India. Dr Kalam served as the 11th President of India, succeeding K. R. Narayanan. He won the 2002 presidential election with an electoral vote of 922,884, surpassing 107,366 votes won by Lakshmi Sahgal. He served from 25 July 2002 to 25 July 2007.

The polling for the presidential election began on 15 July 2002 in the Parliament and the state assemblies with media claiming that the election was a one-sided affair and Kalam's victory was a foregone conclusion. The counting was held on 18 July. Dr Kalam won the presidential election in a highly

one-sided contest. He became the 11th president of the Republic of India. He moved into the Rashtrapati Bhavan after he was sworn in on 25 July..Kalam was the third President of India to have been honoured with a Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, He was also the first scientist and the first bachelor to occupy Rashtrapati Bhawan. During his term as President, he was affectionately known as the People's President. In his words, signing the Office of Profit Bill was the toughest decision he had taken during his tenure.

Dr Kalam is criticized for inaction as a President in deciding the fate of 20 out of the 21 mercy petitions. Article 72 of the Constitution of India empowers the President of India to grant pardon, suspend and remit death sentences and commute the death sentence of convicts on death row. Dr Kalam acted on only one mercy plea in his 5 year tenure as a President, rejecting the plea of rapist Dhananjoy Chatterjee, who was hanged thereafter. The most important of the 20 pleas is thought to be that of Afzal Guru, a Kashmiri who was convicted of conspiracy in the December 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament and was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of India in 2004. While the sentence was scheduled to be carried out on 20 October 2006, the pending action on the mercy plea resulted in him continuing in the death row.

At the end of his term, on 20 June 2007, Dr Kalam expressed his willingness to consider a second term in office provided there was certainty about his victory in the 2007 presidential election. However, two days later, he decided not to contest the Presidential election again stating that he wanted to avoid involving Rashtrapati Bhavan from any political processes. He did not have the support of the Left parties, Shiv Sena and UPA constituents to receive a renewed mandate. Nearing the term expiry of the 12th President Pratibha Patil, whose tenure ended on 24 July 2012, media reports in April claimed that Kalam was likely to be nominated for his second term. After the reports, networking sites were abuzz with activities extending their support for his candidature. BJP potentially backed his nomination, saying that the party will lend their support if Trinomial Congress, Samajwadi Party and Indian National Congress proposes his name for the 2012 presidential election. Just a month ahead of the election. Mulayam Singh Yaday and Mamata Banerjee also expressed their support to Kalam and revealed that they both would suggest his name. Days after expressing support, Mulayam Singh Yadav backed out, leaving Mamata Banerjee as a solitary supporter. On 18th June 2012, Kalam refused to contest 2012 presidential poll after much speculations.

IV. Conclusion

Dr. Kalam is one of the most distinguished scientists of India with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and Institutions. Dr Kalam, was the eleventh President of India, serving from 2002 to 2007. During his term as The President, he was popularly known as the People's President, and voted "India's Best President". In India he is highly respected as a scientist and as an engineer. It is very significant that he is the first scientist to occupy the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "He is a man,

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam as a President Of India

who has taken himself, the task of changing the destiny of India. His vision is to make India a developed country by 2020. He is a man with a vision." He is a favorite with children all over the country. He believes that your children are the future of this country.

He served as the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India from November 1999 to November 2001, and was responsible for evolving policies, strategies and missions of many development applications. Dr. Kalam was awarded India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna in 1997. In Dr. Kalam, we have one of India's foremost scientists whose achievements and national contributions were further showcased when he became India's 11th President. Dr. Kalam, who is also a prolific author espousing the idea of turning India into a knowledge superpower, took up academic pursuit as Professor of Technology & Societal Transformation at Anna University, Chennai from November 2001 and was involved in teaching and research tasks. Above all he took up a mission to ignite the young minds for national development by meeting high school students.

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