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Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam as a Missile Man

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Abstract

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the father of India's integrated guided missile program, states three visions for India. The three visions for India are FREEDOM, DEVELOPMENT and STAND UP, which is based on achievements and progress that he has witnessed during his own career as a missile scientists. Kalam demonstrated the great potential for dynamism and innovation that existed in seemingly moribund research establishments. This is the story of Kalam's own rise from obscurity and his personal and professional struggles, as well as the story of AGNI, PRITHVI, TRISHUL, NAG – Missile that have become household names in India, raised the nation to the level of a missile power of international reckoning. A nation needs both economic prosperity and strong security for growth and development. The technology vision– 2020 plan will put into place certain schemes and plans. These two plans evolved out of the nations dreams. He earnestly hoped and prayed that the development resulting from these two plans– Self Reliance mission and Technology vision – 2020 will eventually make our country strong and prosperous and take the rightful place among the ranks of the “Developed” nation.

Keywords: Integrated, Vision, Moribund, Development

Abul Pakir Jainulabdin Abdul Kalam better known as A.P.J Abdul Kalam born on 15th oct 1931 and was the 11th president of India from 2002-2007. Kalam was born and raised in Rameshwaram, TamilNadu, and studied physics and aerospace engineering in the Madras Institute of technology after which he joined the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, popularly known as “Missile Man” born in a mediocre family, seen and faced problems and hardships of middle class. He was never daunted and depressed of failures. He is the architect of India's integrated missile development programme, a recipient of Bharat Ratna award, a rare example in today's world

where most of the people are engulfed by mediocrity, hypocrisy, corruptions, the likes Dr. Kalam want to conserve.

Dr. Kalam is religious to a fault and is a rapacious reader of both *Bhagwat Gita* and the *Kuran* of the great Tamil Saint Tirvivalurman. He always shares his achievements and success with his teachers and colleagues. When the award of Bharat Ratna was bestowed on Dr. Kalam, for his splendid achievements he said, "I couldn't have done it by myself. Behind me there were thousands of scientists. I only shaped the programme. In a span of 14 years, he lined up Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag and finished the long pending Arjun project pushed forward with indigenous aircraft engine Kaveri. He vowed to make India self-reliant in military war fare by 2005 A.D An apostle of unparalleled genius, he never took excuses of lack of funds or lack of co-operation etc in the glorified path of achieving his goal. This dreamer of making India a super power tells his countrymen and colleagues. "Dream, dream, dream and dream. Turn the dream into thoughts and thoughts will transform into action."

After becoming president Dr. Kalam has been doing a very pious task of exhorting and encouraging the youth, to rise to the occasion and never felt shy of failures, have faith in Almighty and work hard to achieve whatever you like to achieve in your life. Dr. Kalam has become a source of unending inspiration to the youth of today. He is very popular among the children, among the youth and among the matured citizen throughout the country.

When the developed countries, the super powers stuffed with arrogance because of the untotalling might they possess, jeered at country, struggling to arrange basic needs of the people and depending for arms on them to defend its sovereignty. Dr. Kalam, rallied the intelligentsia and scientists together to realize the ambition of integrated guided missile programme.

Dr. Kalam, like very great man, never feel depressed or distressed with the failures, he always move forward with full dedication and devotion to the task he enjoyed upon. He quotes an example of his life, when he came out of HAL(Hindustan Aeronautical LTD) as a graduate for a career in the Indian Air Force. He was called for the interview in Dehradun and stood ninth in the batch of 25, but only eight got selection. Dissappointed with the failure, he visited the pilgrim centre of Rishikesh where he met Swami Shivananda and introduced himself to Swamiji. He narrated him his story of disappointment. Swamiji told him, "Accept your destiny and go ahead with your life. You are not destined to become an air force pilot. What you are destined is not revealed now but it is predetermined. Forget this failures it is essential to lead you along your destined path. Search instead for the true purpose of your life. Become one with yourself, my son!" None not even Dr. Kalam himself could imagine that he was predestined to become the Missile Man of India, recipient of the highest civilian award." Bharat Ratna and there after the president of the largest democracy of the world. Dr. Kalam is a living ideal personality, an undying inspiration to the young generation, always exhorting them not to be daunted by the failures and work hard with fullest dedication, devotion and sincerity, success with positively crowns your head.

Dr. Kalam, the president of India, also known as Missile Man of India, is also known for his zest for life and pursuits that might make other scientists astonished. Dr. Kalam can be termed as an ideal person, as a reader, a lover of classical music and a poet of Tamil, a great scientist, a religious theist personality and what not. A leading columnist wrote about Dr. Kalam that “India needs a Kalam in every institution.” He was directing and guiding a team of 7000 brilliant, dedicated scientists and researcher at 50 laboratories of the DRDO(Defence Research and development organization)

In his literary pursuit four of Dr. Kalam’s books – *Wings Of Fire*, *India 2020- A Vision For The New Millennium*, *My Journey* and *Ignited Minds*. Unleashing the power within India” have become household names in India and among the Indian nationals abroad. These books have been translated in many Indian languages. India is indebted to Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam and proud of such a brilliant and complete man. Dr. Kalam during his tenure as president decided to give away all his wealth and life savings towards a fund called PURA (providing urban amenities to rural areas). Apparently, Dr. Kalam called up Verghese Kurien, the founder of AMUL and asked “Now that I have become the president of India, the govt. is going to look after me till I will be alive. So what can I do with my savings and salary’s? This incident shows how giving he was. Dr. Ambedkar’s words.” A great man is different from eminent one in that he is ready to be the servant of the society” fit perfectly on the life of the legend Dr. A.P.J Kalam. Not many are referred as the “son of the nation and only rarest are called the ‘son of society’

Dr. Kalam’s scientific and nationalistic thought and views on spirituality will always give motivation to students and youth of India. He taught us to dream and fulfill it. ”Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action. Dreams are not those that come while sleeping, but dreams are those when you don’t sleep before fulfilling them. Great son of mother India Dr Abdul Kalam, he will be remembered at every step of life. Dr. Kalam inspired us, he made us realize the importance of learning, he urged us to be responsible, he motivated us, he ignited our minds. Young people are to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed.

Learning gives creativity, creativity leads thinking, thinking provides knowledge and knowledge makes you great. According to Kalam, Active takes on the responsibility .Work for the things you believe in! If you do not, you are surrendering your fate to others.

Man needs difficulties because difficulties are necessary to enjoy success. We all are born with a divine fire in us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness. We will miss luminaries like him beyond words. Mainly focusing on research in defence and space arena, he later involved himself in the India’s missile programme. His contribution to the ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology earned him the household name of the ‘Missile Man of India’. Dr. Kalam earned a degree in aeronautical engineering from MIT and in 1958 joined the Defence Research and

development organization (DRDO). He soon moved to the Indian space research organization where he was a project director of the SLV-III. India's first indigenously designed and produced satellite launch vehicle. Rejoining DRDO in 1982, Kalam planned the program that produced a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname Missile Man.

Ten facts about the Missile Man that follows

1. President Kalam earned his first wages at the age of 8 when he started selling newspaper in his neighbourhood.
2. He was an avid reader of books on cosmology and celestial bodies.
3. He dreamt of becoming a fighter pilot, but couldn't realize it, since he secured the ninth position in the Indian Air force selection, when only eight slots were available.
4. President Kalam started his professional career at the Defence research and development organization (DRDO) where he designed a small helicopter for the Indian army.
5. Dr. Kalam received doctorates from 48 universities which included the university of Edinburgh and the Carregie Mellon university.
6. When he resigned from the office of principal scientific advisor to the govt of India in 2001. Dr Kalam announced setting himself a goal of interacting with 100,000 students throughout the country in an attempt to help them realize their dreams.
7. When in his 70's Dr. Kalam was nominated twice for the MTV Youth icon, once in the year 2003 and then again in 2006.
8. He was a passionate writer and authored close to 18 books, 22 poems and 4 songs during his life time.
9. Dr. Kalam received the Bharat Ratna in 1997. Along with Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, he is the third president of India to have received the award before claiming the presidential post.
10. After Dr. Kalam died in 2015, he had no other property in his name other than his collection of books.

Former President Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, popularly known as India's 'Missile Man' passed away in Shillong on Monday night. Dr Kalam, a scientist of much repute, was at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Shillong conducting a lecture for a more liveable planet earth. Reports mention that Dr. Kalam collapsed during the function after suffering from a massive heart attack and was rushed to Bethany hospital. The eighty three years old former president was taken to the hospital immediately and though doctors struggled to revive him for almost 45 minutes, he was declared dead. Dr John Sailoh, CEO, Bethany Hospital, Shillong confirmed to the quint over phone that Dr. Kalam was brought dead to the hospital. He had been elected president close to thirteen years ago with the support of both the BJP and the congress. After his term ended, Kalam had resumed a life of education, public service and writing. Gifted with pens, as with the mind, the former president authored

fifteen books, one of acclaimed works, India 2020, was penned seventeen years ago. A week of mourning has been declared across the country and several hundred people have gathered outside Bethony hospital. DrKalam is the recipient of the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan and the Bharat Ratna for his work with ISRO and DRDO among several others honours. The whole nation is mourning over the loss of our former president Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. Facebook and twitter are overflowing with emotional posts and tweets which are praising Kalam sir to the hilt.

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