



My Favorite Scientists A P J ABDUL KALAM.

Priyadarshini H

I Year BSc[PCs], Second Semester
Govt. First Grade College, Tumkur
priyadarshini700246@gmail.com

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (15 October 1931 – 27 July 2015) was an Indian aerospace scientist and statesman who served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and studied physics and aerospace engineering. He spent the next four decades as a scientist and science administrator, mainly at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and was intimately involved in India's civilian space programme and military missile development efforts. He thus came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. He also played a pivotal organisational, technical, and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the original nuclear test by India in 1974.

Kalam was elected as the 11th president of India in 2002 with the support of both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the then-opposition Indian National Congress. Widely referred to as the "People's President", he returned to his civilian life of education, writing and public service after a single term. He was a recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

While delivering a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, Kalam collapsed and died from an apparent cardiac arrest on 27 July 2015, aged 83. Thousands, including national-level dignitaries, attended the funeral ceremony held in his hometown of Rameswaram, where he was buried with full state honours.

Kalam was the youngest of five siblings, the eldest of whom was a sister, Asim Zohra followed by three elder brothers: Mohammed Muthu Meera Lebbai Maraikayar (5 November 1916 – 7 March 2021) Mustafa Kalam (1999) and Kasim Mohammed (1995). 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 the habit of rising at 6:30 or 7 a.m. and 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. In his book India 2020, Kalam strongly advocated an action plan to develop India into a "knowledge superpower" and a developed nation by 2020. He regarded his work on India's nuclear weapons programme as a way to assert India's place as a future superpower.

Year of award or honour-Name of award or honour-Awarding organisation

- 2014 Honorary professor Beijing University, China.
- 2014 Doctor of Science Edinburgh University,
- 2013 Von Braun Award National Space Society
- 2012 Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) Simon Fraser University
- 2011 IEEE Honorary Membership IEEE
- 2010 Doctor of Engineering University of Waterloo
- 2009 Honorary Doctorate Oakland University
- 2009 Hoover Medal ASME Foundation, USA
- 2009 International von Kármán Wings Award California Institute of Technology, USA
- 2008 Doctor of Science Universiti Sains Malaysia
- 2008 Doctor of Engineering (Honoris Causa) Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2008 Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
- 2007 Honorary Doctorate of Science and Technology Carnegie Mellon University
- 2007 King Charles II Medal Royal Society, UK
- 2007 Honorary Doctorate of Science University of Wolverhampton, UK
- 2000 Ramanujan Award Alvars Research Centre, Chennai
- 1998 Veer Savarkar Award Government of India
- 1997 Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration Indian National Congress [1997]
Bharat Ratna President of India
- 1995 Honorary Fellow National Academy of Medical Sciences,
- 1994 Distinguished Fellow Institute of Directors (India)
- 1990 Padma Vibhushan Government of India
- 1981 Padma Bhushan Government of India

Carrier as Scientists

After graduating from the Madras Institute of Technology in 1960, Kalam joined the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (by Press Information Bureau, Government of India) as a scientist after becoming a member of the Defence Research & Development Service (DRDS). 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 the INCOSPAR committee working under Vikram Sarabhai, the renowned space scientist. In 1969, Kalam was transferred to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) where he was the project director of India's first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III) which successfully deployed the Rohini satellite in near-earth orbit in July 1980; Kalam had first started work on an expandable rocket project independently at DRDO in 1965. In 1969, Kalam received the government's approval and expanded the programme to include more engineers.