



**Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam**  
(15 October 1931 – 27 July 2015)

Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on 15th October 1931 at Rameshwaram in Tamilnadu His father Jainulabdeen was a boat owner and his mother Ashmma a homemaker. He came from a financially poor background and he used to distribute newspapers to support his family income. He completed his schooling from Rameshwaram Elementary School. In 1954 he graduated in physics from St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli. In 1955 he joined the Madras Institute of Technology and started aerospace engineering. Dr. Kalam's dream was to become a fighter pilot and he was ranked ninth but only 8 slots were offered.

He was a simple person who owned a few possessions including a simple Coat, a Lungi, his beloved Veena and collections of books. He did not even have a television. He was a kind-hearted man whose love for children was always evident. Whenever he used to go as a guest for various programs, as soon as the program got over he would cross the barricades in order to interact with children and motivate them.

### **Career:**

Dr. Kalam emerged as a superb team leader and Technologist with excellence in his scientific career. From 1963 to 1980, his career was spent in space research with the founding of Indian space program by Vikram Sarabhai under the Indian committee for Space research which became ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization). The successful launch of Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3) was a high point of Kalam space research.

After it's success, he was shifted to Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to hold the Missile project and was made the director of Defense Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) in Hyderabad in 1982. He shared his launch vehicle experience with the team of engineers who worked on missile development. His efforts gave birth to the guided-missile development programme into the launch of the surface to surface missile named 'Prithvi', the surface to air missile 'Trishul' and

'Aakash', 3rd Generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) 'NAG'. The launch of Prithvi missile on 25th 1988 was a historic moment for the country.

### **Nuclear Test:**

Yet again he proved his team building and leadership qualities for technology-based projects. Dr. Kalam played a pivotal role in the 1998 nuclear test known as 'Pokaran-II'. This was surprising to many because he did not come from nuclear science pedigree. His forte was rocket science in both ISRO and DRDO. But he became instrumental as a technological manager because 'Pokaran-II' campaign was a joint venture of DRDO Armed Force and Nuclear establishments.

### **Awards:**

He was sincere and devoted to making India self-reliant in space research. His outstanding work earned him the title "Missile Man of India".

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padma Vibhushan in 1990, and declared Bharat Ratna in the year 1997 for his excellent contribution in the field of scientific research and modernization of defense technology in India. In 1999 to 2001 he became the first person to hold the post of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. During his tenure as the Principal Scientific Advisor, he worked on the need of making life-saving treatment affordable to the poorest of the poor.

### **President:**

In the year 2002 a real visionary and a man of honour, Dr Kalam became the president of India which means he also became the supreme commander of Army, Navy and Air Force. It's all due to his sheer effort, and contribution that he earned the title of 'People's President'.

Dr Kalam during his tenure as the president of India, visited to riot hit areas of Gujarat and tried to give healing touch to the victims. Also, he met the families of victims of Bhopal gas tragedy.

### **Visiting lectures -**

He gave visiting lectures in IIM, IIT and several reputed institutions. He also served as chancellor in Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology. Dr Kalam, during the presentation ceremony of the 39th Gyanpeeth Award in New Delhi on August 10, 2006, said, "When I'm dead, do not declare a holiday. Instead, work a day extra."

Dr Kalam has been a writer and has been an author of many books. In his literary pursuit, four of Dr. Kalam's books viz. Wings of Fire, India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium, My Journey, Ignited Minds - Unleashing the Power Name within India, have become famous in India and also attracted readers from all over the world. His journey started from Rameshwaram, reached Rashtrapati Bhavan and continued till his last breath. Today Dr. Kalam is not with us but his teachings are leading us to achieve a new milestone in technology and all ventures in life.



**Prof. Shreya Patil**  
Assistant Professor