

Lesson8



The Missile Man of India



Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, usually known as Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was the eleventh President of India (from 2002 to 2007). APJ Abdul Kalam was born on 15th October 1931, at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu. Although he was born in a poor family, he was an exceptionally brilliant child. His father Jainulabdeen was a boat owner who ferried Hindu pilgrims at the Rameshwaram Temple in Tamil Nadu. His father was also an imam at the local mosque and his mother Ashiamma was a housewife. He started working at a young age. He sold tamarind seeds and newspapers to support his family.

After completing his schooling at the Rameshwaram Elementary School, Kalam went to attend Saint Joseph's College in

Tiruchirappalli. The college was affiliated to the University of Madras, from where he graduated in Physics in 1954. He specialised in Aero Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT).

Dr. Abdul Kalam was a great scientist. He was made the Chancellor of the Institute of Space Science and Technology. He worked in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in 1958 and then joined Indian Satellite Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1963. He made significant contribution to Indian Satellite and also in the missile programme of DRDO. As a Project Director of SLV-III, he contributed to the development and management of India's first indigenous satellite launch vehicle (SLV-III), to inject Rohini Satellite in the near Earth orbit. His greatest contribution was in the field of missiles. Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Trishul and Naag missiles were developed by him. He is known as the 'Missile Man of India' for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology.



Besides being such a great scientist, he was a great writer too. He has written many books such as 'Wings of Fire', 'Ignited Minds', 'Target 3 Billion', 'Turning Point', 'India 20-20: A Vision for the New

Millenium', 'My Journey'. He has mentioned his dream of making India a developed country in his book 'India 20-20: A Vision for the New Millenium.' His advice to the youngsters of the nation was to "Dream Dream Dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action."

The Government of India honoured him with-Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan(1990), Bharat Ratna, including Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration (1997).

Dr. Kalam passed away on 27th July,2015 while delivering a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Shillong. The whole world was shocked and saddened by the sudden and untimely death of the simple, humble yet one of the greatest man of our times.

If you want to shine like a sun, first burn like a sun

New Words

Word Meaning

- exceptionally -असाधारण रूप से
- chancellor -कुलाधिपति
- pilgrim - यात्री
- affiliated - सम्बद्ध
- indigenous -स्वदेशी
- orbit -गृह उपग्रह का परिक्रमा पथ
- ballistic -प्राक्षेपिक
- vision -दृष्टि

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions:

- a. When and where was APJ Abdul Kalam born?
- b. What did he do to help his family?
- c. Name two research organisations where he worked.
- d. Name the book in which he mentioned his dream of making India a developed country.
- e. List the awards by which APJ Abdul Kalam was honoured.
- f. Why is Dr. Kalam known as the 'Missile Man of India'?

Word Power

1. Complete the names of the missiles:

- A _ _ _
- P _ _ _ _ _
- N _ _ _
- A _ _ _ _
- T _ _ _ _ _

2. Choose the correct words from the brackets to fill in the blanks:

Example - With a blank face she said, "My purse is empty."
(empty, blank)

- The _____ of our school is a man of _____. (principal, principles)
- _____ children have _____ hands. (little, small)
- You should live in _____ because _____ is strength. (unity, union)
- The _____ young man has a _____ wife. (handsome, beautiful)

Language Practice

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct degree of adjectives:

Birbal was _____ than the other ministers. (clever)

The Everest is the _____ peak in the world. (high)

China is a _____ country. (big)

Supriya is the _____ girl in the class. (tall)

James is two years _____ than me. (old)

2. Add- 'ly' to the words given in the box to form adverbs and choose the correct adverbs to make meaningful sentence.

One is done for you:

quick+ly= quickly

He ran quickly.

silent, brave, bright, neat, careful

- My grandmother prays ___
- The sun was shining ___
- We must drive ____
- She writes very ____
- The soldier fought _

3. Rewrite the following sentences after inserting the necessary punctuation marks:

a. will you help me

a. ____.

b. delhi the capital of india stands on the banks of river Yamuna

b. ____.

c. how beautiful the sky is

c. ____.

d. where do you want to go asked meera

d. ____.

Activity

Let's Read and Follow

» *Let's read APJ Abdul Kalam's words and follow them in our lives:*

- I am the best.
- I can do it.
- God is always with me.
- I am a winner.

Let's Write

» If you were given a chance to ask President Kalam three questions, what would they be?

1.

2.

3.