



Kalam as People's President

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Abstract: *Kalam, who had been part of the national security strategy team, also was a natural supreme commander of the armed forces, and he took special interest in the welfare of the troops and the advancement of military technology. He led by example as he flew the advanced Sukhoj Jet Fighter, travelled in a submarine and rode an Arjun tank. He would oblige the children with a warm handshake. As he shuns publicity he won't go for the same route the next day.*

Key words: *Supreme Court, military technology, parliament*

Precipitate on Abdul Kalam

Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born in Rameswaram on 15th October, 1931. Kalam became the 11th Indian President between 25.07.2002 to 25.07.2007. Kalam opened the gates of the toss Rashtrapati Bhavan like no other president before or after him. He wanted children from all over the country to visit the 340 room house and the fabled Mughal Gardens. Whenever he had time, he would surprise groups of children by walking to them from his ground floor office and chatting with them. He ensured that every child returned with pleasant memories and a small memento. He studied the guest list and asked why ordinary people were not invited, Kalam ordered that hence forth, a group of ordinary workers should be invited to every reception.

Despite being deeply spiritual, kalam did not want to host an iftaar party. Instead, he gifted food to inmates of orphanages in and around Delhi, that, too, by paying from his own pocket.

He was equal to the task of handling complex political issues. In 2005 when he signed an order placing the Bihar assembly under suspended

animation while on a visit to Moscow. He had been told by the government that the governor, Butasingh, had recommended that no government could be formed in the state, and that the union cabinet headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had endorsed that report. But when the opposition made an issue that the Samatparty-BJP combine was denied a chance to form the government, he was upset. The matter went to the Supreme Court, which scolding the governor in strong terms. But there were no adverse remarks against the president. Kalam had told his staff that he would resign if his conduct was found to be wrong. In 2006, when the Manmohan Singh government got a bill passed in parliament to amend the office of profit Act, following the controversy that Sonia Gandhi had violated the act by accepting the chairmanship of the National advisory council, a position with cabinet rank. Kalam resisted the demand of the government to sign the amendment in to law and relented only when his suggestion that offices of profit should not be given freely to MPs was accepted. He was sad that the government failed to stick to the commitment, because of pressure from most political parties. Kalam, who had



been part of the national security strategy team, also was a natural supreme commander of the armed forces, and he took special interest in the welfare of the troops and the advancement of military technology. He led by example as he flew the advanced Sukhoj Jet Fighter, travelled in a submarine and rode an Arjun tank. He had been interested in a second term as president, but only if there was consensus in his favour.

As president Abdulkalam kept his humble posture intact. For days together he stayed in the Dwarka Suite where many former presidents stayed for many months waiting for the family wing to be refurbished according to their taste. Except for a white wash he did not want any change in his presidential suite in which he moved after two weeks. Sometimes he would not use even the lift and takes the stairs instead. He showed no demands except for some books. At 6.30 am the president sets off for a morning walk in the Rashtrapati Campus. People line up his route. He would oblige the children with a warm handshake. As he shuns publicity he won't go for the same route the next day. Back at 7.30 am scans the days papers especially Tamil. After bath and a simple breakfast the brahmachari. President is in his office by 10 am. Taking a lunch break at 2.30 pm he is back to work by 4.30 pm and never leaves office before 7.30 pm. In his suite, lights are on till quite late. Humility is the strength of the 11th President of India never seen when other 10 resided in the palacious palace of the Rashtrapati.

Kalam was died on 27th July, 2015 he collapsed cardiac arrest during the lecture at Indian Institute of Management Shillong around 6.40 pm.

He was to every Indian a role model and an ideal citizen. Everything about him was positive. His thoughts, his vision everything was positive. The country will never forget his contributions a scientist and as president.

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