

A TRIBUTE TO Dr. APJ ABDUL KALAM

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India deeply mourns the sad and sudden demise of the Former President of India and **Bharat Ratna** of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on July 27, 2015.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was born in Rameswaram on October 15, 1931, to a humble family, 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 program 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 organizational, technical and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the original nuclear test by India in 1974.

It was the role he will probably be most remembered for – a President who brought Rashtrapati Bhavan to the people... earning him the tribute of the "People's President".

Dr. Kalam's 79th birthday was recognised as **World Student Day** by the United Nations. He has also received **honorary Doctorates** from 40 universities. The Government of India has honoured him with the **Padma Bhushan** in 1981 and the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1990 for his work with ISRO and DRDO and his role as a scientific advisor to the Government. In 1997, Kalam received India's highest civilian honour, the **Bharat Ratna**, for his contribution to the scientific research and modernisation of defence technology in India. In 2005, Switzerland declared 26 May as "**Science Day**" to commemorate Kalam's visit to the country. In 2013, he was the recipient of the **Von Braun Award** from the National Space Society "to recognize excellence in the management and leadership of a space-related project."

It was an immense privilege that Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam accepted our invitation and was present at Institute's Golden Jubilee celebration during 2009.

He will be remembered for his engagement with the people - especially children - even after his Presidency and the books that he wrote - India 2020 and, of course, Ignited minds.

"If you want to shine like a sun, first burn like a sun," APJ Abdul Kalam had said in one of his inspirational speeches. He certainly did.

Today that sun has set.

The death of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is an irrecoverable loss to the Country.

Jai Hind