

## About the Author



**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam:** Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalam is one of the most distinguished scientists of India. He specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology and made significant contribution as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III). He was responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme, particularly the PSLV configuration. Later he took up the responsibility of developing Indigenous Guided Missiles at Defence Research and Development Organisation as the Chief Executive of Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). He was responsible for the development and operationalisation of AGNI and PRITHVI Missiles. He served as Chairman of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC); Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, in the rank of Cabinet Minister, from November 1999 to November 2001; and Chairman, Ex-officio, of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C). He took up academic pursuit as Professor, Technology & Societal Transformation at Anna University, Chennai from November 2001 and was involved in teaching and research tasks. In his literary contributions, four of his books - *Wings of Fire*, *India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium*, *My journey and Ignited Minds – Unleashing the power within India* are extremely popular and have been translated in many Indian languages. He has received honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions and was awarded various awards including the coveted civilian awards - Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997). He served as the 11th President of India from 2002.

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