



A.P.J ABDUL KALAM 1931-2015

Missile Man Of India

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931, to a Tamil Muslim family in the pilgrimage centre of Rameswaram on Pamban Island, then in the Madras Presidency and now in the State of Tamil Nadu. His father Jainulabdeen Marakayar was a boat owner and imam of a local mosque;^[9] his mother Ashiamma was a housewife.^{[10][11][12][13]} His father owned a ferry that took Hindu pilgrims back and forth between Rameswaram and the now uninhabited Dhanushkodi.^{[14][15]} Kalam was the youngest of four brothers and one sister in his family.^{[16][17][18]} His ancestors had been wealthy Marakayar traders and landowners, with numerous properties and large tracts of land. Even though his ancestors had been wealthy Marakayar traders, the family had lost most of its fortunes by the 1920s and was poverty-stricken by the time Kalam was born. Marakayar are a Muslim ethnic found in coastal Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka who claim descendance from Arab traders and local women. Their business had involved trading groceries between the mainland and the island and to and from Sri Lanka, as well as ferrying pilgrims between the mainland and Pamban. As a young boy he had to sell newspapers in order to add to the family's meager income. With the opening of the Pamban Bridge to the mainland in 1914, however, the businesses failed and the family fortune and properties were lost over time, apart from the ancestral home.^{[19][20][21]}

Biographies

- Kerala Technological University, headquartered at Thiruvananthapuram where Kalam lived for years, was renamed to A P J Abdul Kalam Technological University after his death.
- India's First Medical Tech Institute named as Kalam Institute of Health Technology located at Visakhapatnam.^[160]
- A new academic complex at Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala.^[163]
- Construction of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Science City started in Patna in February 2019.^[164]
- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Planetarium in Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha was named after him.