

# Editorial

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

## October 15 and the GoI

Every October 15 people had been witnessing complete shutdown of life here in the state of Manipur- reason, almost all rebel group waging war against the government of Imphal for restoration of the Independent of this region imposed total shut down. It was the day that the government of Manipur constituted after British left the erstwhile nation was demolished and merged to the Indian Union.

So it is no wrong to say that the merger of Manipur to the Indian Union in October 15, 1949 after the controversial signing of the merger agreement between Maharajah Bodhachandra and the representatives of the Indian Union on September 21 of the same year at Shillong is the root of all mayhem in the present state of Manipur.

For years people of the state have been witnessing several rebel groups observing October 15 as "Black Day" by freezing all wakes of live under the spell of general strike. The rebels do have their cause in calling the day general strike and most surprising thing the irresponsible attitude of both the state and central government to the calls made on this day. The silence of both the state and central government seems to be a clear indication on the righteousness to the call of the rebel or else why shouldn't there be any statement from the government authority regarding the reasons that the rebels had put forward justifying their cause. A stitch in time save River Nile - the saying should be well think upon. For someone who wanted to go deep into the genesis of all this chaos arisen out of the conflict we certainly do have reason to blame the Central government authority for all the present state of our state.

In his book "Open Secret", Malay Krishna Dhar, the then joint director of the SIB, an intelligent agency had categorically stated the political and economic condition of the state. As according to him he had submitted reports on why the youths especially the Meitei had frustration to the merger of the erstwhile kingdom to the Indian Union terming it as ignorance from the part of the Union government authority. It was in the late 60s that intelligent agency had understood and further cautioned the Union leadership about the possible raise of a separatist movement as an outcome of negligence and proper understanding about the problem of the state.

Points here we wanted every guardian of the country's constituency is the need of special attention to the problem of the state. A mere policy for awarding rehabilitation package to some of the rebel groups and signing of peace deal or cease fire is not a lasting solution. Rather it would bring major problem to the state.

A wrong is a wrong, and a right is always right. What is wrong in correcting the wrongs. India now is emerging as a super power and it is not wrong to speculate in the possible interference of external force to distort the country's unity. The only means to strengthen the ties of the country's unity is through proper clarification on what had been committed before. It was a fact that people in the state believed that merger of Manipur with the Indian Union was illegal- a resolution adopted by a peoples' convention held at GM Hall Imphal in 1993.

Now the mindset of the youth had change a lot, no individuals are fool enough to be driven by some cheap provocative propaganda. So it is better the government accept what has happened before and should sort out the conflict with proper understanding. After all, rebels waging war are also human beings.

## Open letter to Director NIT Manipur

Dear Professor Goutam Sutradhar,

I am writing this open letter to make sure that a free and fair selection of well qualified candidates is done with regard to the forthcoming faculty recruitment drive at NIT Manipur beginning on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Kindly note the following points.

1. Please do not compromise with quality under any circumstances. NIT Manipur is one of the Institutes of national importance in the making.
2. Please do not appoint person who had worked in private colleges/institutes for higher posts i.e. Associate and Professor Level. (Private institute/ university service generally not considered)
3. Please do not appoint any person who had back paper in their entire academic career starting from Matriculation onwards. (This is very important as many times the selection committee misses to examine this parameter from the academic credentials of candidates)
4. Faculty once appointed will remain there at least 30-40 years before they retire. That means an inefficient and academically unsound faculty will tarnish the image of NIT for 30-40 years till his/her retirement.
5. Please do not appoint any one just to fill the vacancy especially at higher posts i.e. Associate and Professor Level.
6. Please do not favour any local/ non local candidate.

Once again I urge you NOT to compromise with quality under any circumstances.

Yours Sincerely  
Sapam Shivananda  
Imphal, Manipur

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## A tribute to Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam

### Missiles man & people's President of India

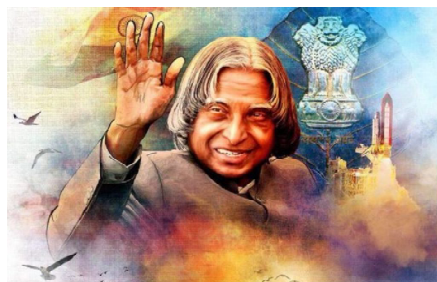


By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh  
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Today is the 88th birthday of Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (APJ Abdul Kalam) who was born on 15th October 1931 to a Tamil Muslim family in the pilgrimage Centre of Rameswaram on PAMBAN Island, then in the Madras Presidency and now in the state of Tamil Nadu. His father Jainulabdeen was a boat owner and Imam of a local mosque, his mother Ashiamma was a housewife. Kalam was the youngest of four brothers and one sister in the family. The eldest of whom was a sister "Asim Zohra", followed by three brothers: Mohammad Muthu Meera Lebbai Maraikayar, Mustafa kalam and Kashim Mohammad. He was extremely close to his elder siblings and their extended families throughout his life and would regularly send small sums of money to his older relations, himself remaining a lifelong bachelor. Kalam was noted for his integrity and his simple lifestyle. He never owned a television and was in the habit of rising at 6:30 am or 7am and sleeping by 2am. His few personal possessions included his books, his Veena, some articles of clothing, a CD player and a laptop; at his death, he left no will, and his possession went to his eldest brother who survived him. Kalam's father owned a ferry that took Hindu pilgrims back and forth between Rameswaram and now the uninhabited Dhanushkodi. His ancestors had been wealthy traders and owned with numerous properties and large tracts of land. 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 result the family acquired the title of "Mara Kalam Iyakkivar" (means, wooden boat steers), which over the years became shortened to "Marakier". With the opening of the Pamban Bridge to the mainland in 1914, however the business failed and family fortune and properties were lost over time, apart from ancestral home. By his early childhood Kalam's family had become poor; at an early age he sold newspaper to supplement his family income. In his school years, Kalam had average grades but was described as a bright hardworking student who had a strong desire to learn. He spent hours on his studies, especially Mathematics. After completing his education at the Schwartz Higher Secondary school Ramanathapuram, Kalam went to attend Saint Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, then affiliated with the University of Madras, from where he graduated in Physics in 1954. He moved to Madras in 1955 to study Aerospace Engineering in Madras Institute of Technology. While Kalam was working on a senior class project, the Dean was dissatisfied with his lack of progress and threatened to revoke his scholarship unless the project was finished within the next three days. Kalam met the deadline, impressing the Dean, who later said to him "I was putting you under stress and asking you to meet a

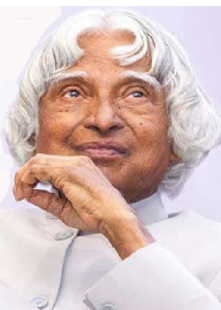
difficult deadline". He narrowly missed achieving his dream of becoming a fighter pilot as he was placed 9th in qualifiers and only eight positions were available in IAF. A proud and practicing Muslim, daily namaz and fasting during Ramadan were integral to Kalam's life. He was fond of saying: "For Great men, religion is a way of making friends; small people make religion a fighting tool". In addition to his faith in the Koran and Islamic practice, Kalam was well versed in Hindu traditions; he learnt Sanskrit, read the BHAGAVAD GITA; and he was a vegetarian. Kalam's desire to meet spiritual leaders to help create a more prosperous, spiritual and unified India was what initially led him to meet Pramukh Swami, the Hindu Guru of BAPS Swaminarayan Sampradaya who Kalam would come to consider his ultimate spiritual teacher and guru. His father had also impressed upon the young Kalam, the value of interfaith, respect and dialogue. As Kalam recalled: "Every evening, my father A.P. Jainulabdeen, an Imam, Pakshi Lakshmana sastry, the head priest of the Ramanathaswamy Hindu temple and a church priest used to sit with hot tea and discussed the issues concerning the Pamban

also directed two projects- project Devil and project Valiant which sought to develop ballistic missiles from the technology of successful SLV programme. Despite the disapproval of the Union cabinet, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi allotted secret funds for these aerospace projects through her discretionary powers under Kalam's directorship. His research and educational leadership brought him great laurels and prestige in 1980s which prompted the government to initiate and advanced missile programme under his directorship. Kalam was the chief executive for the Integrated Guided Missile Development programme. Kalam played a major role in developing many missile under the mission including AGNI an intermediate range ballistic missile, PRITHVI, the tactical surface to surface missile. He thus came to be known as the "MISSILE MAN OF INDIA". He also played a pivotal organizational, technical and political role in India's POKHRAN-II nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the original



Island". Such early exposure convinced Kalam that the answer to India's multitudinous issues lay in dialogue and cooperation among the country's religion, social and political leaders. After graduation from Madras Institute of Technology in 1960, Kalam joined the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defense Research and Development Organization as a member after becoming a member of Defense Research and Development Service (DRDS). He started his career by designing a small hovercraft but remained unconvinced by his choice of a job at DRDO. Kalam was also part of INCOSPAR Committee working under Vikram Sarabhai, the renowned space scientist. In 1969, Kalam was transferred to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) where he was the project Director of India's first satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III) which successfully deployed the Rohini satellite in near-earth orbit in July 1980; Kalam had first started work on an expandable Rocket project independently at DRDO in 1965. In 1969, Kalam received the government's approval and expanded the programme to include more Engineers. In 1963 to 1964, he visited NASA's Langley Research Centre in Hampton, Virginia; Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland; and Wallops Flight Facility. Between 1970s and 1990s, Kalam made an effort to develop the polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and SLV-II projects, both of which proved to be successful. In 1970s Kalam

nuclear tests "SMILING BUDHA" by India at Pokhran in 1974. In 1998, along with Cardiologist SOMA RAJU, Kalam developed a low cost coronary stent, named "KALAM-RAJU" stent. In 2012 the duo designed a rugged tablet computer for healthcare in rural areas which was named the "Kalam-Raju Tablet". Kalam received 7 honorary doctorates from 40 universities. The Government of India honoured him with 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 honor, the Bharat Ratna, for his contribution to the scientific research and modernization of defense technology in India. 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. In 2012, Kalam was ranked number 2 in Outlook India's poll of the Greatest Indian. Kalam served as the 11th President of India, succeeding K.R. Narayanan. His term lasted from 25th July 2002 to 25th July 2007. During his term as president, he was affectionately known as the "PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT", saying that signing the office of profit Bill was the toughest decision he had taken during his tenure. Kalam was criticized for his inaction in deciding the fate of 20 out of 21 mercy petitions submitted to him during his tenure. Article 72 of



Indian Constitution empowers the President of India to grant pardons and suspends or commute the death sentences of convicts on death row. Kalam acted only one mercy plea in his five years tenure as president, rejecting the plea of rapist Dhananjay Chatterjee, who was later hanged. Perhaps the most notable plea was from Afzal Guru, a Kashmiri terrorist who was convicted on conspiracy in the December 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament and was sentenced to death by Supreme Court of India in 2004, while the sentence was scheduled to be carried out on 20th October 2006, the plea resulted in him remaining on death row. He also took the controversial decision to impose President's Rule in Bihar in 2005. In September 2003, in an interactive session in PGI Chandigarh, Kalam supported the need of uniform civil code in India keeping in view the population. During his tenure as President of India, on 12th April 2006, Gin Gangte, then a mere School Head Master of a hill village Bunglon (now a member of the Indian Information Service) in Churachandpur District of Manipur, met the President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at Rastrapati Bhawan in New Delhi and invited him to visit the Bunglon; to know the real faces of India to which Kalam promised to make a visit at the Village. Six months down the line the President fulfilled his promise with the "Great October Visit" on 16th October 2006, which turned the village and its surrounding a new life which was unattended for the last 70 years.

After leaving office, Kalam became visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, Ahmedabad, Indore and an honorary fellow of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram; professor of Aerospace Engineering at Anna University and an adjunct at many other academic and research Institutions across India. He taught Information Technology at the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad. In May 2012, Kalam launched a programme for the youths of India called "What Can I give Movement" with the central theme of defeating corruption. On 27th July 2015, Kalam travelled to Shillong to delivered a lecture on "Creating a livable Planet Earth" at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong. At about 6:35pm IST; only five minutes into his lecture, he collapsed and rushed to the nearby Hospital but he breathed last at 7:45pm IST due to sudden cardiac arrest. His last words to his aide Srijan Pal Singh were "Funny Guy! Are you doing well? Thus Missile man of India and people's President bade good bye to us for his heavenly abode forever leaving behind a vacuum which will be hard to fill.

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