



**FAREWELL ADDRESS**  
PRESENTED TO  
**DR. A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM**  
PRESIDENT OF INDIA  
BY  
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji.* Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam,

Sir, we, the Members of both Houses of Parliament, have assembled here today to bid you farewell on the eve of your demitting the exalted Office of the President of our Republic, a position you have held over the last five years with great distinction and dignity. This is, indeed a solemn occasion for each one of us to extend to you, once again, our profound respects and utmost reverence.

Sir, in this Diamond Jubilee Year of Independence, we recall with deep gratitude, your wide-ranging contributions towards strengthening the nation through your remarkable public career, and more particularly in the last five years, as the First Citizen of our great country.

Sir, the story of your journey from a tiny hamlet of Rameswaram to the Rashtrapati Bhawan is indeed inspiring. Your life and mission are a testimony to what a conscientious citizen of our country can achieve, even when confronted by seemingly insurmountable hurdles in one's path. The many distinctions you have attained in life, under very difficult circumstances, will ever remain a source of inspiration for every aspiring youngster, who dreams of a brighter tomorrow for oneself and for the country at large.

Sir, the will to strive for excellence in whatever you do has been a defining feature of your multifaceted personality. This pursuit of excellence has led to your outstanding academic and professional accomplishments. Having specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from the prestigious Madras Institute of Technology, you did pioneering work in various capacities in several leading scientific institutions of the country.

Sir, you have had an eventful career during which you made unmatched contributions to our scientific and technological progress with exceptional zeal and commitment. Your conviction that our scientific community has the intrinsic potential to lead the nation into the Third Millennium will be a beacon to all those working in cutting edge technologies today.

Sir, you have been among the pioneers in advancing the country's space research programme in its early years and also in evolving scientific policies, strategies and missions for their developmental applications. You were convinced of the imperative of adopting scientific and technological programmes for strengthening the nation's defence preparedness. We recall with gratitude that some of India's most successful defence research programmes were implemented under your stewardship.

A grateful nation has conferred the three highest civilian honours on you, the Padma Bhushan in 1981, the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and most importantly, the Bharat Ratna, in 1997, for your contributions to the development of scientific and technological research in our country.

Sir, in due recognition of your manifold services to the cause of the nation, the people's representatives of the country overwhelmingly elected you in July 2002 to the highest office of the President of the Republic. In the five years that you steered the nation as the Head of State, you have lived up to the high expectations and trust the people reposed in you. In your own characteristic mode, you engaged the people in a dialogue on development and a vision for a millennial civilization.

Sir, you brought to the august office of the President a record of commendable achievements through your creative endeavours. You are recognized across the world as an eminent scientist, a great statesman, a renowned academician, a creative poet and writer, an excellent motivator and communicator and a visionary leader specially for the youth and the children.

An embodiment of courtesy and compassion, you are a shining example of the finest traditions of our composite culture. As one who strives tirelessly to translate dreams into action, you have been deeply committed to the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged. You have also been equally dedicated to the furtherance of peace, progress and prosperity in society by reaching the benefits of development in all its varied dimensions to all sections of our people.

Sir, through your innate simplicity and humility, you have lent grace and lustre to the august office. Besides discharging your constitutional responsibilities with dignity and poise, you have also been effectively articulating the nation's developmental concerns and priorities. Your knowledge-powered development model of 'Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas', popularly known as the PURA Model, through which you presented a road-map for bridging the rural-urban divide in the country, has proved to be the lodestar for the States to bring about socio-economic transformation in rural India.

We, the Members of Parliament, recall vividly your call to our countrymen for transforming India into a developed nation by 2020, and assure you that we share that laudable vision in its entirety. During your years as the President you have zealously tried to ignite the young minds to assimilate that vision and to strive to achieve the same.

As an icon of the younger generation, you have been spreading the message of 'dream, sweat and perseverance' among children and youth of this country. With a view to impacting the impressionable minds of the children with scientific temper and patriotism, you have made it a mission to meet and encourage as many children as possible and to connect with our younger generations, who are the future of the nation. Your interaction with thousands of school children and college students during the Presidency has inspired them to 'think big' and 'dream big' so that, in the years ahead, they will be able to translate their dreams into action.

Sir, it is indeed a matter of pride that your tenure as the President of the Republic witnessed the nation achieving a high growth trajectory in various fields. We solemnly pledge and reassure you that we shall focus all our endeavours towards realizing your vision of transforming our country into a developed nation. In this exciting national mission, we are sure, Sir, that you will continue to guide us and inspire us, as you have done all through your illustrious life.

Parliament House,  
New Delhi.  
23 July, 2007  
1 Shrawana, 1929 (Saka)

We remain,  
Sir,  
Yours respectfully,  
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA