



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
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PRESS RELEASE

Passing away of former President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam

Former President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam passed away on 27 July 2015 at Bethany Hospital, Shillong.

As a career scientist, Dr Kalam was intimately involved in India's civilian space program and defence research establishment. Dr. Kalam was passionate about transforming society through technology, in particular by inspiring the youth of India to harness science and technology for human welfare. He was an educator and teacher at heart, motivating and igniting millions of young minds, till his very last moments.

Dr Kalam was conferred the highest civilian honour of India, the Bharat Ratna, in 1997. He was known affectionately as the "People's President", for his grace, simplicity and human touch.

Dr Kalam visited Mauritius in March 2006 as Chief Guest for the National Day celebrations. Always a visionary, he spoke at that time of the importance of the ocean and its resources for Mauritius.

He addressed the members of the National Assembly on 13 March 2006, and spoke of the commonalities between India and Mauritius: "We have a common bond, not only people to people, but above all the waves of the same Ocean embrace both of us." He also interacted with the scientific community and young students at the University of Mauritius and the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, and with CEOs from the ICT sector at Cyber City, Ebene, stressing the importance of value-based education and a humanitarian approach to science.

Dr Kalam's last rites will be performed at his hometown of Rameswaram on 29 July 2015. The Government of India has declared a seven-day period of national mourning.

A **Condolence Book** will be kept open at the premises of the High Commission of India, between 1000 hrs. to 1600 hrs. on Wednesday, July 29 and Thursday, July 30, 2015.