Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India passed away on 27 July 2015 at Shillong. As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, seven days state mourning was observed throughout India.

Born on 15 October 1931 at Rameswaran in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Avul Pakar Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology.

Dr. Kalam served as the 11th President of India from 25th July 2002 to 25th July 2007. His focus was on transforming India into a developed nation by 2020.

According to Dr. Kalam’s wishes, no state funeral was held.

His mortal remains were cremated at the Vandalur Zone Crematorium in Chennai, his native village.

Dr. Kalam was one of the most distinguished scientists of India with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions. He was awarded coveted Indian civilian awards - Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997).

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In his literary pursuit, four of Dr. Kalam’s books - "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey" and "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the powder within India" became household names in India and among Indian nationals abroad. These books have been translated in many Indian languages.

In his condoleance message, President Mukherjee said, "The passing away of former President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is a deep personal loss for me. I will always cherish my long association with him. As President of India, Dr. Kalam was immensely popular and greatly admired. His warmth, humility and simple ways endeared him to one and all. He had a special love for children and sought to constantly inspire the youth of our country through motivational speeches and personal interaction".

Condoling the sudden and untimely demise of former President, Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari said that Dr. Kalam was a true son of India and his contributions to the nation, in his capacity as a man of technology, a teacher and a leader will be deeply cherished by a grateful nation. "The guide of India’s space and missile programs, Dr. Kalam’s efforts saw India become a front ranking power in these spheres."

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Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee visited the UK during July 27-30, 2015. The Chief Minister was accompanied by an official delegation including Dr Armit Mitra, Minister of Finance; Shri Derek O’Brien, MP; Rajya Sabha; Shri Sugato Bose, MP; Lok Sabha; Shri Deepak Adhikari, MP; Lok Sabha; Shri Sovan Chattopadhyay, Mayor of Kolkata; apart from the official delegation, the Chief Minister was also accompanied by a large business delegation, cultural delegation as well as the media from India.

During the visit, HRH Prince Andrew, the Duke of York hosted the
in the state, assuring them that "backlogs and red tape are gone." During the event, over 20 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the UK and West Bengal Governments at the FICCI-UKIBC business event held earlier in the fields of industry, health, education and urban development were highlighted. Prior to the reception, the Chief Minister had a bilateral meeting with Rt Hon Priti Patel, where issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The Chief Minister attended a Round table Discussion over dinner hosted by Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt, Chair, UK India Business Council (UKIBC), during which she interacted with high level representatives of UK corporates keen on investing in West Bengal.

The Chief Minister participated in a Roundtable Discussion with Asia House corporate members, hosted by Asia House and KPMG, during which she highlighted the opportunities available for UK companies to invest in West Bengal.

During the visit, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes at the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament Square and the statue of Rabindranath Tagore at Gordon Square in London. The Prime Minister of the UK David Cameron could not meet with the Chief Minister as he was not in the UK. The PM wrote a letter to the Chief Minister, saying "I wish you a successful and rewarding visit which will help to forge the close ties between the UK and West Bengal. Our relationship with India is a priority for the UK, and we look forward to welcoming your Prime Minister to the UK later this year. The proposed signature of over 20 Memorandums of Understanding between the UK and West Bengal during your visit is a clear reflection of our positive relationship in a number of areas."
The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister in charge of the Cabinet Office, visited India from 27-29 July 2015.

The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister in charge of the Cabinet Office met with Honble Finance Minister of India, Shri Arun Jaitley in Delhi.

The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister in charge of the Cabinet Office met with Honble Minister for Railways of India, Shri Suresh Prabhu in Delhi.

The Honble Maharashtra Chief Minister presenting a book to Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister in charge of the Cabinet Office.

An Indian delegation led Mr. N.K. Sharma, Chief Parliament Secretary, Industry Commerce and Investment Promotion, Government of Punjab visited the UK from 23 to 25 July, 2015.

Punjab delegation with the community leaders to discuss the problems of NRIs in Punjab at India House on 24 July, 2015.

Roundtable Discussion on India-Nottingham collaboration held at India House on July 17, 2015.

Roundtable Discussion at India House

Minister (Coordination), S.S. Sidhu at annual “Prakash” event on 17 July 2015.

The Nanaksar Thath Isher Darbar Trust and Guru Nanak Sikhs Academy School organised the annual Prakash event.
Bharat has lost a Ratna: PM Modi writes on APJ Abdul Kalam’s death

BHARAT has lost a Ratna, but the light from this jewel will guide us towards APJ Abdul Kalam’s dream-destination: India as a knowledge superpower, in the first rank of nations. Our scientist-President - and one who was genuinely loved and admired across the masses - never measured success by material possessions. For him, the counterfeit to poverty was the wealth of knowledge, in both its scientific and spiritual manifestations. As a hero of our defence programme, he shifted horizons; and as a seer of the spirit, he sought to liberate doctrine from the narrow confines of partisan tension to the transcendental space of harmony.

Every great life is a prism, and we bathe in those rays that find their way to us. His profound idealism was secure because it rested on a foundation of realism. Every child of deprivation is a realist. Poverty does not encourage illusions. Poverty is a terrible inheritance; a child can be defeated even before he or she has begun to dream. But Kalamji refused to be defeated by circumstances. As a boy, he had to support his studies by earning money as a newspaper vendor; today, page after page of the same newspapers are filled with his obituary notices. He said that he would not be presumptuous enough to say that his life could be a role model for anybody; but if some poor child living in an obscure and underprivileged social setting found some inspiration, it could perhaps help such children liberate themselves from the bondage of illusory backwardness and helplessness. He is my margdarshak, as a role model; but if some poor child living in an obscure and underprivileged social setting found some inspiration, it could perhaps help such children liberate themselves from the bondage of illusory backwardness and helplessness. He is my margdarshak, as an inspirational vision shine through his life. He was unencumbered by ego; flattery left him cold. He was equally at ease before an audience of suave, globe-trotting ministers and a class of young students. The first thing that struck one about him was that, uniquely, he combined the honesty of a child with the energy of a teenager and the maturity of an adult. He took little from the world, and gave all he could to society. A man of deep faith, he epitomised the three great virtues of our civilization: damma, self-restraint; dana, sacrifice; and daya, compassion.

But this persona was powered by the fire of endeavour. His vision for the nation was anchored in freedom, development and strength. Given our history, freedom had a political context of course; but it also included freedom of the mind and expansion of intellectual space. He wanted India to leap out of the under-developed trough, and eliminate the curse of poverty through inclusive economic growth. Wisely, he suggested that politicians spend only 30% of their time on politics, and 70% on development; a suggestion which he often followed up by calling in MPs from a state and discussing the socio-economic issues of their region with them.

For the full text, please visit: https://www.bbcworldservice.com/programmes/%E0%B9%83%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%95%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%94%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%A7%E0%B9%84%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%AB%E0%B9%81%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%B7%E0%B9%89%E0%B8%9A%E0%B8%AA%E0%B9%81%E0%B8%95%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%A9%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%9A%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%A1%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%95%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%97%E0%B9%81%E0%B8%A7%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%A9%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%9A%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%A1/}

India Digest
Exercise Indradhanush

The Indian Air Force contingent touched the skies of the UK with glory during the two week-long Exercise Indradhanush. The title of the Exercise signifies display of glorious power in the sky. This Exercise was fourth in the series and is held alternately in the UK and India. The last was held in India in the year 2010. The IAF contingent demonstrated strategic deployment capability, flying in 4 x Su-30MKI aircraft along with 01 x IL-78 Tanker ac, 01 x C-17 and 01 x C-130 aircraft providing transport support. The deployment was completed within 54 hrs, travelling across three continents, covering a distance of over 8000 miles. The 190 strong contingent was led by Group Captain A Srivastva. The first aircraft landed in the UK on 17 July 2015 and the last aircraft departed the UK airspace on 31 Jul 2015. The IAF team flew combat training missions along with RAF involving contemporary tactics. The combat support aircraft crew are also associating/interacting with the RAF Globemaster Sqn, Hercules Sqn, Voyager (Air to Air Refueling) Sqn and gaining from the RAF experience.

The IAF Garud regiment of Special Forces operated with the RAF Regiment in various aspects of training. The troops practiced various missions in urban warfare which also included combat insertion missions in a near-realistic scenario. The IAF aircrew performed exceptionally well and demonstrated their high standard of training, op preparedness, flexibility and adaptability while flying outside Indian national borders. Full cooperation was evident between RAF and IAF in meeting all operational, maintenance and administrative requirements.

Visit of AYUSH Delegation to the UK

A delegation from Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) led by Shri Nilanjan Sanyal, Secretary, AYUSH visited London from 30th July to 1st August, 2015. The aim of the visit was to promote and develop cooperation in the field of traditional systems of medicine between India and the UK. During the visit the delegation explored the possibilities to enhance the use of traditional systems of medicine and in this regard the delegation had meetings with Dr Michael Dixon, Chair – College of Medicine, London, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), Dr Peter Fisher, Director of Research, Royal London Hospital of Integrated Medicine, All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) – Indian Traditional Sciences and representatives from UK industry British Homeopathic Association.
The e-Tourist visa facility would be extended to the nationals of the United Kingdom and is not available to British Overseas Territories Citizen. Your application would be rejected if your nationality is other than United Kingdom.

Further details on how to apply for e-tourist visas may be checked on the e-Tourist Visa website: https://indianvisainline.gov.in/visa/etou.html

### News from the Nehru Centre

**03 July: 'Kundalini' by Ono Masaka**
A very interesting dance concert titled 'Kundalini' was presented on July 3rd by Ono Masaka who is a Japanese practitioner of Odissi dance. According to her, the human being is a miniature universe. One aspect is masculine, retains a static quality and remains identified, while the other aspect is feminine, dynamic and often chaotic.

**06 July: Musical performance & exhibition- The Benaras Baaj Story: Journey of a musical tradition, touring exhibition 2015**
On July 6, The Nehru Centre showcased The Benaras Baaj Story: Journey of a musical tradition, touring exhibition 2015. PRSSV celebrates the life and legacy of virtuoso Pandit Sharda Sahai, experience the rich history of the Benares tabla tradition from the 18th century courts of India to 21st century modern Britain. An interactive audio-visual experience, of one of the India’s rich musical tradition, an opportunity to view rare footage of some of India’s great artists; restored and digitised. This project is being led by PRSSV and marks the culmination of a grand vision of international tabla artist, the late Pandit Sharda Sahai, who made West London his home for the last 25 years of his life. The archive and exhibition document his journey from India to London and his major international impact as a performer and teacher. The inauguration of this beautiful and very informative exhibition was followed by a musical event ‘Raga Blues’- Cross-collaboration performance with leading musicians, Robert Hokus on Blues guitar, Shaun Matswete on tabla, Liran Donin on double bass and Anjan Saha on spoken word.

**08 July: Film Screening, 'Margarita with a Straw' by ELSA UK**
from the Balasaraswati School of Abhinaya and Vazhuvvoor style of Nritta in the Indian Classical Dance form called Bharatanatyam. She presented a 60 Min long presentation showcasing a traditional Repertoire under the title 'Prateeka'. Prateeka (translates to 'Symbol') is a presentation that aims to bring forth the mysterious and magnificent underlying connotations of various symbolic representations in the Hindu philosophy. 'Prateeka' renders an array of myriad emotions, colours and ideas to its audience.
मान की बात
आवासावानी पर प्रधानमंत्री का संबोधन

मन दे रामनाथ, प्रमुख

इस कारण की ओर से जब सुझाव दिया जाता है। हमें विकास का सफर करना चाहिए और इसके लिए यह वाचन है कि हम प्रति प्रति ही अग्रदूत हैं और हमें ही हमारे अपने लोगों को यह सीखना होगा कि हम अपने अपने अपने जीवन की ध्येय रेखाओं के तरीके से कैसे उन्नति कर सकते हैं।

भी राहुल रावसाहब, 26 जुलाई, 2015

मन के बाहर चारों दिशाओं में कार्यशीलता हमें रूपांतरित करने के लिए ऐसी सहायता प्रदान की जाती है। हमें यह सीखना होगा कि हमारे पास क्या संसाधन हैं और हम क्या अग्रदूत हैं। यह वाचन है कि हमारे पास क्या संसाधन हैं और हम क्या अग्रदूत हैं।

10 जुलाई में सांस्कृतिक समारोह के समाप्ति पर राष्ट्रपति प्रति संस्कृति प्रमुख ने कहा था कि 'वह दिन उन्हें बना जाएगा जिसकी मदद से हम मान की बात कर सकते हैं।' अभी वहाँ कहा गया है कि 'वह दिन उन्हें बना जाएगा जिसकी मदद से हम मान की बात कर सकते हैं।'
Kumbh Mela is one of the hallowed festivals of India and is organized at a big scale. According to the scholars, it is believed that when Gods and demons were having fight over the nectar then Lord Vishnu flew away with the pot of nectar spilling drops of nectar at four different places; where we celebrate Kumbh melas, those places were Hardwar, Nasik, Ujjain and Prayag.

The Kumbh Mela in Nashik

Trimbakeshwar is a holy town that houses one of the twelve Jyotirlingas in India. It also is the origin of the river Godavari and is situated 38 kms away from Nashik. The Shinasta Kumbh Mela is held once in 12 years in Nashik and Trimbakeshwar.

According to historical records, Nashik is one of four places where the elixir of immortality, the ‘amrit’, fell to earth from a pitcher as gods and demons were engaged in the tussle to gain the ownership of the jar full of ‘amrit’. The Kumbh Mela rotates among the four holy sites every three years.

The Kumbh Mela is marked by millions of devotees’ plunge into the river Godavari that is believed would cleanse their souls leading to salvation. A ritual bath at a predetermined time and place is the major event of the festival. The annual festival of Shivratri is also celebrated with great pomp and show inviting thousands of pilgrims.

Nashik is one the major city in Maharashtra, located 200 kms from Mumbai and Pune. The city has gained immense popularity owing to its pleasant climatic conditions, beautiful architecture, temples and caves.

The famous temples of Nashik are: Sundaranarayan temple, Kampaleshwar temple, Balaji temple, Kalaram Mandir, the Goraram Mandir and the Rameshwar or Bell temple. Nashik has thus, rightfully been called the Benares of South India and the Godavari, the Ganges of the South.

Sights to See

Anjneri: Anjneri is claimed to fame lies in being the birthplace of Lord Hanuman, according to legend. Presence of a number of Jain temples goes on to prove that the area was once under the influence of Jainism.

Muktibham: It is a unique temple depicting all the important Hindu pilgrimage centres in India including 12 Jyotirlingas. Made of pink marble from Makrana in Rajasthan, the temple is a prime attraction in Nashik.

Gangapur Dam: This dam on Godavari river is visited for its serene environs.

Taptovan: A picturesque place, the place is associated with Lord Rama who used to spend his time during his exile.

Kalaram Mandir: Kalaram Mandir is another religious highlight of Nashik. Located in the Panchavati area of the city, the shrine is extremely important regarding Hinduism and keeps on being an important place for pilgrims.

Someshwar Temple: Dedicated to Lord Shiva, it's one of the oldest temples in the city and situated on the banks of the holy river Godavari.

Shirngapur: It is believed that Lord Ram used to bathe here.

Sights to See

Anjneri

Muktibham

Gangapur Dam

Taptovan

Shirngapur

How to reach

AIR: Mumbai is the nearest airport connected by flights from major cities of India and the world.

RAIL: Nashik Road is the nearest railhead connecting several important cities in India.

ROAD: Nashik is connected by good motorable roads to all important places in India.

Situated on the banks of Godavari, Nashik is used by the visitors as a starting point to the pilgrim destinations of Trimbak and Shirdi, famous for their association with the renowned Saint Shri Sai Baba.

Sightseeing:

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