

I UNIT: ABDUL KALAM'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

About the Author: APJ Abdul Kalam (1931-2015) was born into a middle-class family in Rameswaram, Tamilnadu. He had an unparalleled career as a defence scientist and was also the recipient of the highest civilian award of India, the Bharat Ratna. A Chief of India's research and development program, Kalam demonstrated the potential for dynamism and innovation that exists in seemingly moribund research establishments. He was nominated as the eleventh President of India in 2002, and was as the 'peoples's President'. Kalam passed away in 2015, engaged in doing what he loved most – delivering a lecture to young students.

Introduction: The following address was delivered by Dr Kalam after being sworn in as the President of India. He expounds on his vision for a developed India in this lecture, elaborating on the nation's strengths and the areas which need improvement. After addressing the guests, the new President went on to quote Thiagarajswamigal's Keerthana — "Endaro Mahaanubhavalu andhariggi vandanmulu" — which means, "I salute all the great noble-hearted human beings." He said he was overwhelmed by the faith the nation had reposed in him. Thanking Members of Parliament and State legislatures for having reposed faith in him by electing him, he promised to endeavour to fulfill the aspirations of the people in order to realize their shared dream of prosperity, harmony and strength.

Progress of India - Made in the fifty years since its independence: Indian civilisational heritage is built on universal spirit. India has always stood for friendship and extends warm hands to the world. We have made significant achievements in the last 50 years in food production, health sector, higher education, media and mass communication, industrial infrastructure, information technology and defence. Our nation is endowed with natural resources, vibrant people and traditional value system.

Problems that continue to plague the nation: He said it was unfortunate that India,

despite its rich natural resources, vibrant society and strong traditional value system, had remained a developing country with many of its citizens living below the poverty line, undernourished and lacking in even primary education. Besides, he said, there were other challenges such as cross-border terrorism, internal conflicts and unemployment.

Kalam's movement aim to achieve: To face the challenges of our nation, there must be a vision to ensure focused action of one billion citizens of this great country with varied capabilities, he said asking "What can be that vision?" Replying to himself, the President said it could be none other than transforming India into a developed nation for which a "movement" was needed". This is the time to ignite the minds of the people for the movement. We will work for it. We cannot emerge as a developed nation if we do not learn to transact with speed, he said and recalled saintly poet Kabir's wisdom: "What you want to do tomorrow do it today, and what you want to do today, do it now." At this juncture, he recalled a beautiful thought of DR GG Swell, an eminent leader from the North East: "We must have a mental infrastructure. Mental infrastructure means sincerity of purpose, of vision, or purity of heart and mind.

National priorities according to Kalam: Calling for a national movement to transform India into a developed country with speed and making it militarily and economically self-reliant, Kalam emphasized his "unflinching commitment to the principle of secularism", describing it as the "cornerstone" of the nationhood and "the key feature of our civilisational strength". Outlining a world view of his vision to make India strong, the new President pleaded for making national security a national priority and expressed his unflinching commitment to secularism. Along with speedy development aimed at elimination of poverty and unemployment, nation security has to be recognized by every Indian as a national priority. Indeed, making India strong and self-reliant – economically, socially and militarily – is our foremost duty to our motherland and to ourselves and to our future generations.

Essential Elements of a Strong Nation: He reiterated his vision of a developed and strong India. Quoting from Thirukkural, the Tamil classic, he said that the important elements that constituted nation well-being included health, high productivity, harmonious living and strong defence. He said that all efforts should be directed at building these elements at various levels in a coherent and integrated manner.

Kalam about the Constitution: He also declared his commitment to the parliamentary form of democracy and the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. He said he was confident that the Constitution would continue to be responsive to the demands of changing situations. "The first and foremost task is to respect and uphold the constitutional processes, in the best interest of our people and our nation, without fear or favour and with fairness and firmness," he said.

Kalam's song of Youth: He said it was a crime to have small dreams and read out the Song of Youth that he has been reciting at schools that he has been visiting over the past couple of years. The ceremony, which was replete with symbolism, ended with Abdul Kalam reciting from his book Song of Youth, in which he pledges to "keep the lamp of knowledge burning, to achieve the vision - Developed India".

II UNIT : SATYA NADELLA'S EMAIL TO HIS EMPLOYEES ON HIS FIRST DAY AS CEO OF MICROSOFT

Introduction: Satya Narayana Nadella was born in 1967 in Hyderabad and was educated in the Hyderabad Public School. He pursued BE in electronic engineering from the Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal. He then moved to the US to study MS (Computer Science) from the University of Wisconsin. His career took off when he became a member of the technology staff in Sun Microsystems and then got a job offer from Microsoft where he worked his way up the ranks and on 4 February 2014, he was appointed CEO of Microsoft.

Nadella's Formative Influences: After taking over as the new CEO, Nadella sent an email to the Microsoft employees. This email announces a new mission statement for the company to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. It also talks about the company's vision and the direction it envisages to move in. In the letter introducing himself to the employees, Nadella says that he is 46 and has been married for 22 years. His ideology and thoughts have been shaped by his family and his overall life experiences. His well-wishers say that he can be defined by his curiosity and thirst for learning. He buys several books and joins several online courses to update himself. He fundamentally believes that if we are not learning new things, we stop doing great and useful things. Hence family, curiosity and hunger for knowledge all define Satya Nadella. In short, he is family man, who works hard like everyone and aims to be at the top.

Microsoft – Best Company in the World: Nadella believes Microsoft is a great place to work in because it believes in empowering its employees to innovate. Microsoft Corporation's primary competitors are Oracle, Google, Apple and Facebook. Employee retention has remained quite a challenge with increasing competition. In the letter he states that how clearly they could empower people to do magical things with their creations and ultimately make the world a better place. He knew that there was no better company to join if wanted to make a difference. This is the very same inspiration that

continues to drive Nadella at Microsoft. This is now being seen as a plea from Nadella to the employees to continue on in Microsoft, for they would be rewarded in due course.

Future of Technology: One of the first things that Nadella did after taking over as the CEO, was to request Bill Gates to continue with Microsoft. It has emerged that Bill Gates will work as Technology Adviser for the New CEO. Nadella forecast cloud computing, Machine learning, insights from big data and increasingly ubiquitous technology with connected devices as the future, and says that Microsoft will have to evolve to keep pace with these emerging technologies and trends. Microsoft's goal in its early years was to have a PC in every home and on every desk. This goal has largely been achieved in the developed world. Today, the world has more or less moved away from PCs and instead favors Mobile and Clouds-Computing devices. In a clear sign that Microsoft will be looking at strengthening its hold on the mobile device market, Nadella states that Microsoft has moved on from the early desktops to broader ranges.

Motivating Microsoft Employees: Nadella believes Microsoft is uniquely situated to achieve its goal of being a tech leader in the coming decades as well, because it can harness the power of Software as well as hardware, through its acquisition of Nokia. He believes that going forward, Microsoft must focus on innovation that empowers people to do more and improve their lives. Nadella says that employees commonly underestimate their role in a company, and overestimate the role of others. He says that each employee must work towards innovating technology which will make people's lives better and easier, and this way, also find meaning and joy in their work.

Nadella's Strategy for Microsoft: Despite its long success, Microsoft over the years has seen a dip in its shares and that is what Nadella primarily wants to address when he says that Our industry does not respect tradition — it only respects innovation. This is a critical time for the industry and for Microsoft. In short, Nadella wants Microsoft to gear up for the increasing competition and prove itself as a strong rival like it was a decade back. This starts with clarity of purpose and sense of mission that lead to imagine the impossible and

deliver it. Many companies to aspire to change the world but very few have all the elements required. He says that Microsoft has proven that it has all the three - talent, resources and perseverance are the foundation on which a company attains great heights, and concludes by saying Microsoft has all of this in plenty.

IV UNIT: GOOD MANNERS BY J.C.HILL

About the Author: The famous writer John C.Hill (1888-1943) has written a few things on the various factors constituting what good manners are. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, and was eventually ordained as a priest. J. C. Hill's Good Manners is an extract from his famous book An Introduction to Citizenship. This essay talks about the manners one should have in the society. He emphasizes the value of cordial relations amongst one another.

Introduction: A man with pleasing manners respects the feelings, and sentiments of people around him. He shows proper regard to his elders, loves his equals and is kind to those who are younger than him. Modesty and courtesy are essential traits of his personality. Good manners are vital for success in life. Nobody likes a rude person, but good manners endear a man to other.

Change of Young Man's Attitude: The author opens the essay with a story of a young man. A healthy young man who never cared for others once became seriously ill and when he recovered, he was very weak and had to remain so for a few days. Even walking became very difficult for him. It was then that he realized the misery of weak and old people who get no seats in transport buses. He will get back his strength someday but those old people will never get back theirs. So from then onwards he promptly gave up seats for the weak and aged in buses.

A Boy Scout' Joke of the Lady's Question: Once when an old lady, seeing his dress, asked a little boy whether he was a Boy Scout, he was irritated and rudely barked that he was 'two eggs on toast'. She only meant how nice he looked in a nice uniform and there was really nothing silly in her remark. This is considered improper behavior towards older people. Through this story, the author wishes to say that we should care for people around us, which is a good manner. He asks us not to laugh at the old people who find it hard to

cross the road. He says that our laughter will turn back to us soon, as it happened with the young man.

Thoreau's Words about Truth: Many often, what we speak will not be the truth. We shall not hold it that what we speak is truth. The acclaimed American writer Thoreau once said that 'it takes two to speak the truth- one to speak and another to hear.' Truth differs from person to person. Socialism might be control of commerce and industry to some, but it is robbing the riches of others to some others. What we think to be true needn't always be true.

The author sites an example. Some students were once shown a picture of a bull-fight and asked later to describe it from memory. One said, a bull's tongue was out. Actually the bull's mouth was closed, but because its head was turned to the side, its ear had looked like a tongue. So whenever we argue with somebody about a point, think that always there is always a chance of us going wrong.

Precautions while Speaking in Company: Some people are delighted to hear their own voice resounded from everywhere and always, and some young men and young women talk away their lives, thinking the company is delighted to hear them, but everyone there would really be exhausted and angry at their unpolished and rude behavior. The author asks us to be cautious while speaking with others. If we are talking with another person, we should give him a chance to speak too. If they do not speak, it means that they do not want us to talk too.

Then we are asked to be listener cautious too. If we speak of some subject, we should be aware of the fact that the listener might have a different idea about what we are talking. The author gives different meanings for the word socialism for different people. While in company, we should be very careful in observing good manners. We should speak clearly and sufficiently loud for others to hear us. It is our duty to make ourselves understood. And do not talk too much. Always give others a chance to speak. Good listeners get enough time to think.

No Man Really Understands Himself: The author advises us to understand ourselves before teasing or talking ill about others. He gives several examples for this. If an old woman asks a boy with scout uniform whether he is a scout boy then the boy should explain himself. He should not scold her for being silly. He also says that none of understand ourselves. He gives an experiment as an example. The experiment conducted in a college in which the students were shown a bull picture. Some students said that the bull's tongue was out of its mouth, but it was not so. The author says that every one of us is not aware of ourselves and we should take care of what we argue and speak.

Significance of Good Manners: We are staying on this planet only for a very short time. Before it is a hundred years, our times are out. We will never see those who we live with again in our lives. Perhaps we will never see a human face again. This is our only chance to see, acquaint with and deal with human beings. So we should behave politely, and please them and help them.

Men are fragile things come to live in this dangerous world. We are unimportant humble little human beings who shall not pass this way again. During our short stay here, we should help the world as much as we can. A child would not be knowing about the sufferings of his parents, which they would not be willing to tell him. So children should make life easy for them. Good manners come from sympathy with others and from understanding our own limitations. We should strain and train ourselves to remain calm before irritating questions.

Conclusion: The author concludes the essay by saying that there is not single truth in the world. What might be true to us might be false for someone else. So he asks us to cultivate the good manners of understanding other people and not hurting them.

V UNIT – OH FATHER, DEAR FATHER

Introduction: “Oh Father Dear Father” is an excellent satirical story, written by Raj Kinger on the present education system and on those parents and teachers who are after such kind. It inspires parents to think of their child's precious childhood. It is personality that is more important than ranks and grades but our system demands good numbers from a child in an exam not to show his personality. Hence a child is not well exposed to outer world and he or she might not be able to develop a personality. In this story, here is a letter written by a boy to his father about what he thinks of his education, and the kind of education he is really interested in. The writer strongly denounces the rote learning saying that what he learns gives him no practical exposure to the real world. He is especially critical on the emphasis placed on examinations, marks and ranks.

Father & Son Relationship: The letter writer Rahul's father is angry because he has obtained the second rank in his class, instead of the first. The letter is written by the son in response to his father's disappointment. The father and son in the letter do not agree with their world view, more precisely, any of their views. The two are poles apart. The father is a rigid-mind with a set of rules written for his son. He is an uncompromising philosopher who has always taught his son to be moulded in his mould of beliefs. Rahul, the boy, loves life as natural as possible while his father enjoys a complicated life. Father was not very happy with the boy's approach to life. Here are the essential differences between the father and son. Father believes in high score and cannot compromise in it. He believes that money is very important. He doesn't trust his son but he trusts his teachers. Rahul believes in simple life and a flexible going. The son believes that peace of mind and happiness is important. He tells his father that the overemphasis on his studies has taken away all enjoyment from childhood; he says that education does not seem to make people happy. He wants his father to be his friend, philosopher and guide. His imagination wants to fly like a rocket to Jupiter and Mars; to traverse a new world and new fields.

Grand Parents & Their Outlook towards World: The son's grandfather used to speak of a carefree and beautiful childhood, of his days when he spent plucking mangoes and guavas

from their orchards, of picnics on the banks of the river where men cooked mouth-watering food, of playing marbles and other games. From his talk it was evident that studies were only secondary for our survival. In his opinion life was to be lived, enjoyed and experienced. Rahul had always found his grandfather in the right place. He was a man who believed in simplicity in sharp contrast to Rahul's father. Rahul asks this logical question to remind his father that his grandfather's life had not been a joke but one worth living. He asks his father if the world turned topsy-turvy in just 70 years. Seventy years refers to the grandfather's age. It is significant because during these 70 years, grandfather had acquired a lot of experience that shaped a philosophy that Rahul considers ideal. Rahul's grandmother was not very much educated as his mother was yet the older woman was a happy one. His grandmother lived a life of contentment while his mother is high-strung, tense and nervous.

Problems with Education System: The son explains to his father that whatever he learns in school has no practical application. He narrates the incident of his biology teacher not being able to help him with a practical science-related problem. The teacher did not think Rahul's question relevant in her class so she asked him to approach the gardener for advice. The teacher had a low character as she was of the opinion that out of syllabus questions do no good in a class. From the way she responded to Rahul, "Go, ask the guy who keeps gardening things," reveals her crossness and irritability. He also gives the example of his father's friend's and his father himself to support his stance, saying that none of these people use what they have learnt like Pythagoras' theorem or Newton's Law of Gravity in schools. Rahul explains that he lost the first rank owing to a disagreement with his teacher over a minor point in English grammar, and criticizes the education system which curbs independent thinking and encourages blind adherence to what the teacher says. He says that his teacher was an adamant person. For Rahul, practical education matters more than theoretical. In his opinion, there is no good in scoring high marks on one side and on the other, being unable to apply theoretical knowledge into practice. Classroom knowledge should come handy in our day-to-day life.