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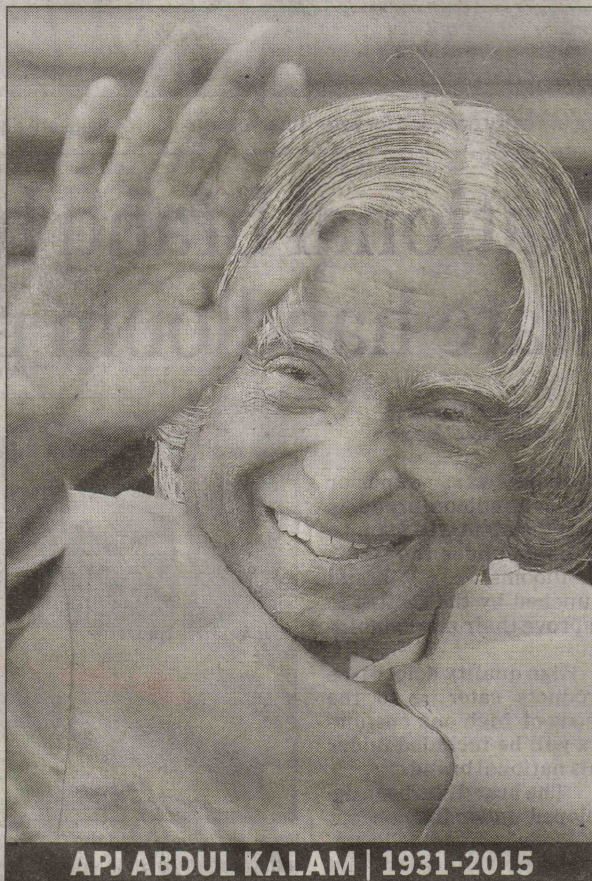
Missile Man Finishes In Mission Mode, Collapses During Lecture People's Prez Joins The Stars

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Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was a president like no other. The floppy silvery mop curling on his forehead, the twinkling eyes and the ever smiling visage seemed to radiate boundless infectious energy and positivity.

Kalam embodied the new India story. Born into a poor Muslim family in Tamil Nadu, he rose by sheer force of education and conviction to become a driving force behind India's space and missile programmes, chief scientific adviser to the PM, boss of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and finally, President of India. Long after he'd left Rashtrapati Bhavan, he remained high on every popularity poll. In the US, he would have been called a 'rock star'.

On Monday, India's Missile Man-turned-People's President went as suddenly – at a youthful 83 – as he arrived centre stage to become a national icon. Kalam collapsed while delivering a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management,



APJ ABDUL KALAM | 1931-2015

IIT-BBS to miss ex-President

IIT Bhubaneswar will miss APJ Abdul Kalam during its forthcoming convocation in September. The institute had contacted him to grace the event. "Though the date was not finalized, Kalam had indicated his willingness when our chairman (SK Roongta) approached him," institute director RV Rajakumar said. Rajakumar said Kalam along with some other Nobel laureates were scheduled to visit during the event. P 4

Shillong at around 6.30pm. He was rushed to Bethany Hospital but the doctors couldn't save him. His body is being flown to Delhi this morning.

To a new aspirational India he was a President refreshingly free of political affiliation, a genial figure who embodied the joy and adventure of science, whose messages were so attractive to the young precisely because they were so simple and straightforward.

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