

**Welcome Speech by Hon'ble Member
Smt. Shashi Uban Tripathi**

Hon'ble former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,
Hon'ble Union Minister of State Shri V. Narayanasamy,
Hon'ble Chairman, UPSC Prof. D.P Agrawal,
Hon'ble Members of the UPSC,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome this distinguished gathering to the 3rd Lecture in our Series on 'Governance and Public Service' to be delivered by none other than the renowned former President of India, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. The inaugural lecture in this Series was delivered by Her Excellency, the President of India and the Second by the Honourable Vice-President of India.

The subject of 'Governance and Public Service' has exercised the minds and hearts of many a ruler and political thinker down the ages and has been addressed by the likes of Kautilya and Ashoka and Akbar. Today, its relevance is more critical than ever. On behalf of the Commission and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to our Chief Guest who found time amidst his multifarious preoccupations and travels to be with us this afternoon to speak on this subject. We are deeply honoured.

Dr. Kalam is a special person. He can engage with a child as readily as he does with a rocket scientist. He is equally at ease with king and commoner. His most endearing quality is his childlike simplicity and his genuine good nature. I have been fortunate to travel with him on his State visits to Africa and Europe and saw with amazement how he charmed all manner of people – from Intellectuals to Journalists to students. He received a laudatory press wherever he went and was even hailed as the 'Saint - Scientist'. He was probably the only serving President who understood Einstein's famous formula, $E=MC^2$! I can not think of a person better suited to speaking on the subject of Governance and Public Service than Dr. Kalam. His pet project called PURA (Providing Urban Facilities to Rural Areas) reflects his emotional connection with common people and his vision for their well being and empowerment.

This is a goal that the Commission shares with its Hon'ble Chief Guest. Citizen's welfare is expected to be at heart of policy formulation. It's effective execution the overriding imperative of public service. Keeping this truism as its unfailing objective, the Commission has attempted to fulfill its Constitutional mandate over the years, with varying degrees of success. The fact that the Constitution ensures the independence and autonomy of the Commission has helped it to discharge its duties in advising the Government without fear or favour. The Commission, on its part,

remains ever conscious of the values of transparency, accountability, fair-play and justice. Along the way, the Commission has adapted its procedures to the changing times in response to exigencies of the emerging socio-economic realities in the country and the growing aspirations of the people, especially the youth. The constant effort to improve, upgrade and review by adopting best practices, continues.

It is in this context that we look forward eagerly to hearing our honoured guests this afternoon – Shri Narayanasamy, who has always been a friend and supporter of the Commission and our honoured Chief Guest, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

A warm welcome, once again.

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