

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam BR (/ˈəbdʊl kəˈlɑːm/[ⓘ]; 15 October 1931 – 27 July 2015) was an Indian [aerospace](#) scientist and statesman who served as the 11th [president of India](#) from 2002 to 2007. Born and raised in a Muslim family in [Rameswaram](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), he studied [physics](#) and [aerospace engineering](#). He spent the next four decades as a scientist and science administrator, mainly at the [Defence Research and Development Organisation](#) (DRDO) and [Indian Space Research Organisation](#) (ISRO) and was intimately involved in India's civilian space programme and military [missile development efforts](#).^[2] He thus came to be known as the ***Missile Man of India*** for his work on the development of [ballistic missile](#) and [launch vehicle](#) technology.^{[3][4][5]} He also played a pivotal organisational, technical, and political role in India's [Pokhran-II](#) nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the [original nuclear test by India](#) in 1974.^[6]