

AVUL PAKIR JAINULABDEEN ABDUL KALAM

Former president & Missile Man of India



KALAM EARLY LIFE

- *Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931, to a Tamil Muslim family in the pilgrimage centre of Rameswaram.
- *His father Jainulabdeen Marakayar was a boat owner and imam of a local mosque and his mother Ashiamma was a housewife.
- *Kalam was the youngest of four brothers and one sister in his family.
- *In his school years, Kalam had average grades but was described as a bright and hardworking student who had a strong desire to learn.
- *After completing his education at the Schwartz Higher Secondary School, Ramanathapuram, Kalam went on to attend Saint Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, then affiliated with the University of Madras, from where he graduated in physics in 1954.
- * He moved to Madras in 1955 to study aerospace engineering in Madras Institute of Technology.

CAREER AS A SCIENTIST

- *He started his career by designing a small hovercraft, but remained unconvinced by his choice of a job at DRDO.
- *In 1969, Kalam was transferred to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) where he was the project director of India's first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III) which successfully deployed the Rohini satellite in near-earth orbit in July 1980.
- *In the 1970s, Kalam also directed two projects, Project Devil and Project Valiant, which sought to develop ballistic missiles from the technology of the successful SLV programme.
- *Kalam served as the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and Secretary of the Defence Research and Development Organisation from July 1992 to December 1999.

PRESIDENCY

- *Kalam served as the 11th president of India, succeeding K. R. Narayanan. He won the 2002 presidential election.
- *His term lasted from 25 July 2002, to 25 July 2007.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- *Kalam received 7 honorary doctorates from 40 universities.
- *The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1981 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 for his work with ISRO and DRDO and his role as a scientific advisor to the Government.
- *In 1997, Kalam received India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, for his contribution to the scientific research and modernisation of defence technology in India.
- * In 2008 Kalam was the recipient of Hoover Medal.
- *And in 2013, he was the recipient of the Von Braun Award from the National Space Society " to recognize excellence in the management and leadership of a space-related project".
- *In 2012, Kalam was ranked number 2 in Outlook India's poll of the Greatest Indian.
- *The Tamil Nadu state government announced that his birthday, 15 October, would be observed across the state as "Youth Renaissance Day".

DEATH

- *On 27 July 2015, Kalam travelled to Shillong to deliver a lecture on "Creating a Livable Planet Earth" at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong.
- *While climbing a flight of stairs, he experienced some discomfort, but was able to enter the auditorium after a brief rest.
- *He was rushed to the nearby Bethany Hospital in a critical condition; upon arrival, he lacked a pulse or any other signs of life.
- *Despite being placed in the intensive care unit, Kalam was confirmed dead of a sudden cardiac arrest.