

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (/ˈʌbdʊl kəˈlɑːm/ ⓘ *UB-duul kə-LAHM*; 15 October 1931 – 27 July 2015) was an Indian [aerospace](#) scientist and statesman who served as the [president of India](#) from 2002 to 2007.

Born and raised in a Muslim family in [Rameswaram](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), Kalam 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](#). He was known as the "Missile Man of India" for his work on the development of [ballistic missile](#) and [launch vehicle](#) technology. He also played a pivotal organisational, technical, and political role in [Pokhran-II](#) nuclear tests in 1998, India's second such test after the [first test](#) in 1974.

Kalam [was elected](#) as the [president of India](#) in 2002 with the support of both the ruling [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) and the then-opposition [Indian National Congress](#). He was widely referred to as the "People's President". He engaged in teaching, writing and public service after his presidency. He was a recipient of several awards, including the [Bharat Ratna](#), India's highest civilian honour.

While delivering a lecture at [IIM Shillong](#), Kalam collapsed and died from an apparent [cardiac arrest](#) on 27 July 2015, aged 83. Thousands attended the funeral ceremony held in his hometown of Rameswaram, where he was buried with [full state honours](#). A [memorial](#) was inaugurated near his home town in 2017.