



APJ Abdul Kalam

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the former [President APJ Abdul Kalam](#) on his **90th birth anniversary**.

- [Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign \(KAPILA\)](#) was launched in 2020 on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

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Key Points

▪ About

- **Born on 15th October 1931** at Rameswaram in **Tamil Nadu**.
 - His birth anniversary is celebrated as the **National Innovation Day**.
- He graduated in Science from St Joseph's College, Trichy in 1954 and specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1957.
- He is one of the **most distinguished scientists of India** with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 48 Universities and institutions from India and abroad.
- He was sworn in as **India's 11th President in 2002** and completed the full term in 2007.
- He planned programmes to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname "**Missile Man**".

▪ His Contribution

◦ Pioneer in Fiberglass Technology

- He was a pioneer in fiberglass technology and led a **young team to initiate this effort** in **ISRO** from design, development leading to the production of composites rocket motor cases.

◦ Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3)

- He made a significant contribution as Project Director to develop **India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3)** which successfully injected the **Rohini satellite** into **Near-Earth Orbit** in July 1980 and made **India an exclusive member of Space Club**.
- He was responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme, particularly the **PSLV configuration**.

◦ Indigenous Guided Missiles

- After working for two decades in ISRO and mastering launch vehicle technologies, he took up the **responsibility of developing Indigenous Guided Missiles** at the DRDO.
 - He was the Chief Executive of **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.
 - He led to the **weaponization of strategic missile systems** and the **Pokhran-II nuclear tests** in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon State.

◦ Technology Vision 2020

- In 1998, he put forward a countrywide plan called **Technology Vision 2020**, which he described as a road map for transforming India from a less-developed to a developed society in 20 years.
 - The plan called for, among other measures, increasing agricultural productivity, emphasising technology as a vehicle for economic growth, and widening access to health care and education.

◦ Others

- He was passionate about bringing rural prosperity through **PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas)**, in which science and technology has to play a key role.
- Based on his diverse experience he propagated the concept of **World Knowledge Platform** through which the core competencies of organizations and nations can be synergized to innovate and create solutions and products for the challenges of the 21st century.

▪ Awards Received

- He was awarded the coveted civilian awards - **Padma Bhushan** (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award **Bharat Ratna** (1997).

▪ Literary Works

- "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey" and "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the power within India", "Indomitable Spirit", "Guiding Souls", "Envisioning an Empowered Nation", "Inspiring Thoughts" etc.

▪ Death

- 27th July 2015 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

Source: PIB

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