



# 106th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

## Why in News?

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (12<sup>th</sup> August 1919 - 30th December 1971), widely recognized as the **Father of India's Space Programme**, was remembered and celebrated on his **106th birth anniversary** on **12th August**.

## Key Points

- **Early Life and Education:**
  - He was **born in Ahmedabad**, Gujarat, into an affluent Jain family. Sarabhai was one of eight children of Ambalal and Sarla Devi.
  - Undergraduate degree in **Physics and Mathematics** from Cambridge University.
  - Pursued a PhD under Nobel laureate [C.V. Raman](#) at **IISc, Bangalore**, with the thesis titled "**Time Distribution of Cosmic Rays**," published in 1942.
- **Institutional Legacy:**
  - **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad:** Founded in 1947, PRL marked the beginning of Sarabhai's journey in institution building.
  - **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad:** Played a pivotal role in its creation.
  - **Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad:** Founded in 1966 to promote science education.
  - **Darpan Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad:** Co-founded with his wife, Mrinalini Swaminathan.
  - **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram:** A hub for India's space missions.
- **Contributions to Indian Space and Nuclear Programs:**
  - **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):** He founded the [ISRO](#), emphasizing the importance of space technology for societal development.
  - **Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE):** Conceptualized with NASA, [SITE](#) beamed educational programs to rural areas, laying the foundation for programs like **Doordarshan's Krishi Darshan**.
  - **Aryabhata Satellite:** Initiated the fabrication of [India's first satellite, Aryabhata](#), launched in 1975 from a Russian cosmodrome.
  - **Atomic Energy Commission:** Took over as chairman after Homi Bhabha's death, advancing [nuclear science](#).
- **Awards and Honors:**
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    - [Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award](#) (1962)
    - [Padma Bhushan](#) (1966)
    - [Padma Vibhushan](#) (posthumously, 1972)
  - **Distinguished Positions:**
    - President, Physics Section, Indian Science Congress (1962)
    - President, General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna (1970)
    - Vice-President, Fourth UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (1971)
  - **Title:** [Mahatma Gandhi](#) of Indian Science (By former President [APJ Abdul Kalam](#)).
  - **Legacy:**

- **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** was named in his honor.
- A lunar crater, "**Sarabhai Crater**," was named after him.

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