



Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan

Why in News

Recently, **Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan of Pakistan** passed away. He is hailed as the man who single-handedly ensured that Pakistan succeeded in **making nuclear weapons**. This was significant, as this made Pakistan an **equal of India** in terms of Nuclear Weapon state.

- Due to this, he is revered in Pakistan as the **“father” of the country’s “atom bomb” or Nuclear Hero**.
- However, the western world criticised him as a **nuclear thief** or **“the greatest nuclear proliferator of all time”**.

Key Points

▪ About Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan:

- In **1975**, Khan, then **working in Holland in a uranium enrichment facility as a German-Dutch translator**, offered his services to then PM **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto**, who wanted Pakistan to have its own nuclear programme.
 - He provided the **first blueprints for Pakistan’s centrifuges**, setting it on the path to uranium enrichment.
- In **1976**, he **joined Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission’s** nuclear weapons effort.
- He was **convicted by a Dutch court for the theft**.
- Also, he has **smuggled nuclear secrets to states including North Korea, Iran and Libya**.
 - For this, he was arrested and placed in a house arrest.
- Due to his contribution, **by 1998, Pakistan had conducted its first nuclear tests**.
- Pakistan honoured him with the titles of **Nishan-e-Imtiaz** (Order of Excellence, Pakistan’s highest civilian honour) and **Mohsin-e-Pakistan** (Benefactor of Pakistan).

▪ About India’s Nuclear Tests and Nuclear Doctrine:

- In **1965**, India with **NAM countries** proposed some principles to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the **UN Disarmament commission**. These are:
 - Not to transfer Nuclear technology to others.
 - No use of nuclear weapons against non nuclear countries.
 - UN security cover to non nuclear States.
 - Nuclear disarmament ban on the nuclear test.
- In May **1974**, India conducted its **first nuclear test in Pokhran** with the codename of **“Smiling Buddha”**.
- In **1998**, five nuclear tests were conducted as a part of the series of Pokhran-II.
 - These tests were collectively called **Operation Shakti**.
- In 2003, India adopted its **Nuclear Doctrine of ‘No First Use’** i.e. India will use nuclear weapons only in retaliation against a nuclear attack on its Territory.

- **India** possessed an estimated **156 nuclear warheads** at the start of 2021 compared to 150 at the start of last year, while **Pakistan had 165 warheads**, up from 160 in 2020 ([SIPRI Yearbook 2021](#)).
 - Pakistan has not stated a “**no first use**” **policy** and there is little known about its nuclear doctrine.

Source: IE

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