

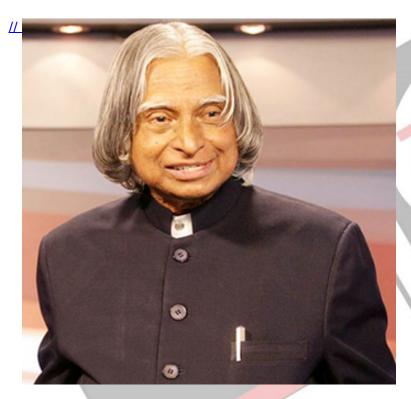
APJ Abdul Kalam

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the former <u>President APJ Abdul Kalam</u> 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.

The Vision



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 <u>ISRO</u> 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 <u>PSLV configuration</u>.

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 <u>Integrated Guided Missile Development</u> <u>Programme (IGMDP).</u>
- He led to the weaponization of strategic missile systems and the <u>Pokhran-II</u> 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 <u>Technology Vision 2020</u>, 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 - <u>Padma Bhushan</u> (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

