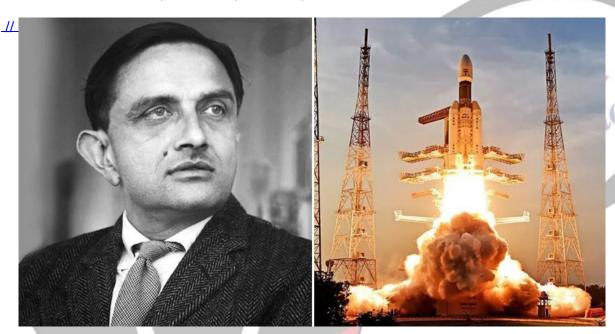


# Vikram Sarabhai's 52nd Death Anniversary

#### Source: IE

Why in News?

- Every year, the **30th December** is observed as the **death anniversary** of **Vikram Sarabhai**.
- Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was an Indian physicist and industrialist who initiated space research and helped develop nuclear power in India.



## What are the Contributions of Vikram Sarabhai?

- Early Life and Education:
  - Born on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1919, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to an affluent Jain family, Sarabhai was one of eight children of Ambalal and Sarla Devi.
  - He showed creative promise early, building a working model of a train engine at 15, now preserved at the Community Science Centre (CSC) in Ahmedabad.
  - He completed his Tripos (undergraduate degree) in Natural Sciences from St. John's College, Cambridge (1940).
  - He returned to India during <u>World War II</u> to research <u>cosmic rays</u> under <u>Dr. CV Raman</u> at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
  - He was awarded a PhD from Cambridge in 1947 for his thesis on cosmic rays.
- **Institutional Legacy:** Dr. Sarabhai was instrumental in establishing several institutions that continue to shape India's scientific and industrial landscape:
  - **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.
- Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad: Formed by merging six institutions.
- Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad.
- Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Bihar.
- 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.
    - Advocated for **satellite applications** to address India's developmental
  - 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:
  - Awards:
    - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (1962)
    - Padma Bhushan (1966)
  - Distinguished Positions:
- President, Physics Section, Indian Science Congress (1962)
  President, General Conference of the IAEA. Vienna (1970)
  Vice-President Family 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.

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs):**

## Q. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission.
- 2. made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA.
- 3. made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

#### Ans: (c)

### Q. What is 'Greased Lightning-10 (GL-10)', recently in the news?

- (a) Electric plane tested by NASA
- (b) Solar-powered two-seater aircraft designed by Japan
- (c) Space observatory launched by China
- (d) Reusable rocket designed by ISRO

Ans: (a)

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