



Birth Anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

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Why in News?

Recently, President Droupadi Murmu honoured former [President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam](#) on his birth anniversary.



What are the Key Facts of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam?

- **About:**
 - Born on **15th October 1931** at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.
 - He planned programmes to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname **“Missile Man of India”**.
 - He was sworn in as **India’s 11th President in 2002** and completed the full term in 2007.
- **Awards Received:**
 - He was awarded the coveted civilian awards - [Padma Bhushan](#) (1981) and [Padma Vibhushan](#) (1990) and the highest civilian award [Bharat Ratna](#) (1997).
 - Dr. Kalam, a renowned Indian scientist, **holds honorary doctorates from 48 universities and institutions** in India and internationally.
- **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

▪ **Contributions:**

- **Pioneer in Fiberglass Technology:** He was a pioneer in fibreglass technology and led a young team to initiate this effort in [ISRO](#).
- **Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3):** As Project Director, he played a key role in developing India's first indigenous **Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3)**, which successfully launched the [Rohini satellite](#) into orbit in July 1980, marking India's entry into the Space Club.
- **Indigenous Guided Missiles:** He was the Chief Executive of [Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme \(IGMDP\)](#)
 - He led the weaponization of strategic missile systems and the [Pokhran-II nuclear tests](#) in collaboration with the [Department of Atomic Energy](#).
- APJ Abdul Kalam witnessed the country's **first nuclear test, Smiling Buddha, and later directed Project Devil and Project Valiant** -- efforts to develop ballistic missiles from the technology of the successful SLV programme.
- **Technology Vision 2020:** In 1998, he proposed **Technology Vision 2020**, a national plan aimed at transforming India from a developing to a developed nation within 20 years.
- **Medical and Healthcare:** APJ Abdul Kalam, in collaboration with cardiologist B. Soma Raju, developed the affordable '**Kalam-Raju Stent**' for coronary heart disease, making healthcare more accessible.

Read More: [President of India](#), [Presidential Election](#), [Top 10 ISRO Missions](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions

Prelims

Q. With reference to the election of the President of India, consider the following statements: (2018)

1. The value of the vote of each MLA varies from State to State.
2. The value of the vote of MPs of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)