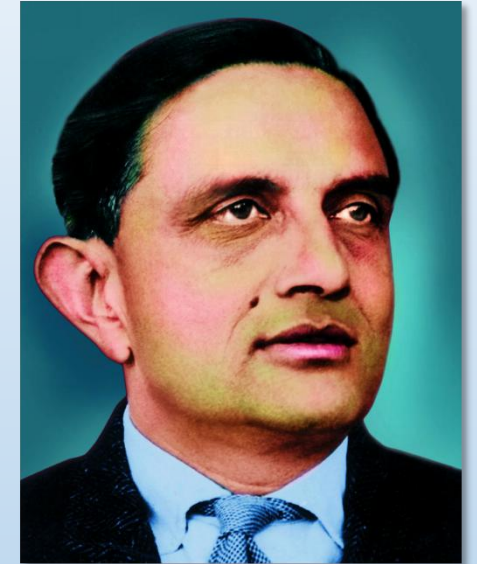


A Virtual Exhibition on Life Journey of
Vikram Sarabhai
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The Great Scientist Vikram Sarabhai



He is the founder of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and is known as the Father of the Indian Space Program. He was a physicist, industrialist and innovator. Even the lander of Chandrayaan-2 has been named after him. ISRO has announced an award in the name of Vikram Sarabhai on his 100th birthday.

Dr. Sarabhai was considered as the Father of the Indian space program; He was a great institution builder and established or helped to establish a large number of institutions in diverse fields. He was instrumental in establishing the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad : after returning from Cambridge to an independent India in 1947, he persuaded charitable trusts controlled by his family and friends to endow a research institution near home in Ahmedabad. Thus, Vikram Sarabhai founded the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad on November 11, 1947. He was only 28 at that time. Sarabhai was a creator and cultivator of institutions and PRL was the first step in that direction. Vikram Sarabhai served of PRL from 1966-1971. He was also Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. He along with other Ahmedabad-based industrialists played a major role in the creation of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.



Introduction of Vikram Sarabhai



- **Name : Vikram Sarabhai**
- **Date of Birth : 12 August, 1919**
- **Place of Birth: Ahmedabad, India**
- **Famous as : Scientist, Physicist**
- **Father's Name : Ambalal Sarabhai**
- **Mother's Name : Sarla Devi**
- **Spouse/Ex : Mrinalini Sarabhai**
- **Children : Kartikeya Sarabhai, Mallika Sarabhai**
- **Died on : 30 December, 1971**
- **Place of Death : Halcyon Castle, Kovalam In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India**
- **Awards - Padma Bhushan (1966), Padma Vibhushan**
- **Institutions - Indian Space Research Organisation, Physical Research Laboratory**
- **Doctoral students - Udupi Ramachandra Rao**





Vikram Sarabhai Early Life & Education



He was born on 12 August, 1919 in the city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India. He is one of the eight children of Ambalal Sarabhai and Sarla Devi. He belongs to rich family who managed several textile mills. He passed his intermediate examination in Science subject from the Gujarat College in Ahmedabad and then for further studies he went to England. He was an intelligent student and from his childhood he had an interest in science. In England in 1940, he took admission at the St John's College, University of Cambridge and pursue Tripos in Natural Sciences. In 1942, he published his first scientific paper 'Time Distribution of Cosmic Rays'. In 1945, he came back to Cambridge for further research on cosmic rays and earned his PhD degree for his thesis 'Cosmic ray investigations in tropical latitudes'. In 1947, he came back to India and then joined the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore to carry out research on cosmic rays. Let us tell you that scientist C.V Raman advised him to do research on cosmic rays. He was married to Mrinalini Sarabhai and had two children Mallika and Kartikeya Sarabhai.



Vikram Sarabhai Career and Achievements



- He came to India when India got its independence and so, he felt the need for better scientific facilities. For this, he established The Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in November 1947.
- The founding director of PRL is K.R Ramanathan, an atmospheric scientist. Under his guidance the institute became the leading organisation of cosmic rays and space sciences.
- He is the founding director of Indian institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. In 1961, with the help of businessman Kasturbhai Lalbhai he set up an institute of learning.
- He played a crucial role in establishing the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT University) in Ahmedabad in 1962. University offers courses for undergraduate and postgraduate programs in subjects like architecture, planning and technology.
- He established the Nehru Foundation for Development in 1965 which focus on the current problems of society and individual development.



Vikram Sarabhai Career and Achievements



- He also established Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC) in 1960s with an aim to promote science and mathematics education among students and general public.
- Dr, Homi Bhabha always supported Vikram Sarabhai in most of his projects and was the pioneer in the field of nuclear research in India. Not only this Bhabha helped Vikram Sarabhai in setting up the first rocket launching station at Thumba on the coast of the Arabian Sea. On 21 November, 1963, the inaugural flight was launched.
- He was also the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
- The most significant contribution of Vikram Sarabhai is in establishing the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1969. The objective behind establishing it is to advance the space technology and apply it for national benefits.
- Major work of Vikram Sarabhai is to establish ISRO and contributed immensely in the field of science. He is regarded as the Father of the Indian Space Program. Eventually, ISRO became the largest government space agency in the world.



Some of the Institutions established by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai



- Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
- Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad
- Darpan Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad (along with his wife)
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
- Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad (This institution came into existence after merging six institutions/centres established by Sarabhai)
- Faster Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), Kalpakkam
- Variable Energy Cyclotron Project, Calcutta
- Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad
- Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Bihar



Distinguished positions



- **President of the Physics section, Indian Science Congress (1962)**
- **President of the General Conference of the I.A.E.A., Vienna (1970)**
- **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India (1966–1971)**
- **Vice-President, Fourth UN Conference on 'Peaceful uses of Atomic Energy' (1971)**
- **Founder and Chairman (1963–1971), Space Applications Centre**



Indian Space Program



The establishment of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was one of his greatest achievements. He successfully convinced the government of the importance of a space programme for a developing country like India after the Russian Sputnik launch. Dr. Sarabhai emphasized the importance of a space program in his quote: "There are some who question the relevance of space activities in a developing nation. To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose. We do not have the fantasy of competing with the economically advanced nations in the exploration of the moon or the planets or manned space-flight. "

"But we are convinced that if we are to play a meaningful role nationally, and in the community of nations, we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society." Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, widely regarded as the father of India's nuclear science program, supported Dr. Sarabhai in setting up the first rocket launching station in India. This center was established at Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram on the coast of the Arabian Sea, primarily because of its proximity to the equator. After a remarkable effort in setting up the infrastructure, personnel, communication links, and launch pads, the inaugural flight was launched on November 21, 1963 with a sodium vapour payload.

As a result of Dr. Sarabhai's dialogue with NASA in 1966, the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was launched during July 1975 - July 1976 (when Dr. Sarabhai was no more).

Dr. Sarabhai started a project for the fabrication and launch of an Indian Satellite. As a result, the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, was put in orbit in 1975 from a Russian Cosmodrome.

Dr. Sarabhai was very interested in science education and founded a Community Science Centre at Ahmedabad in 1966. Today, the Centre is called the Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre.



ISRO announced Vikram Sarabhai Award



To pay homage to the father of India's Space program, ISRO has announced an award in the name of Vikram Sarabhai on his 100th birthday that on 12 August, 2019. The Vikram Sarabhai Journalism award in Space Science Technology and Research will be given to those journalists who have contributed to the fields of space science, applications and research. Nominations for the awards are open to all Indian journalists and articles from 2019-2020 that will be reviewed for the award.

The Award consists of two categories: The first has a cash price of Rs 5,00,000, a medal and citation. In the first category two journalists or freelancers of the print media will be awarded. The second category of the award consists of three cash prizes of Rs 3,00,000, 2,00,000 and 1,00,000 respectively, and a citation. Journalists or freelancers of print media will get the award. On 1 August, 2020 the names of the selected candidates will be announced. Not only will this ISRO on Sarabhai's birthday inaugurate a commemorative coin and an exhibition on a bus namely 'Space on Wheels' based on the life of Sarabhai. On 12 August, a coffee table book with exclusive pictures from his life will also be launched.

Therefore, we can say that the contributions made by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai are extraordinary in the field of space science. He established several institutions and showed the path of technology to our country. His dedication and hard work can't be forgettable and so, to pay homage to the father of India's Space program, ISRO has announced an award in the name of Vikram Sarabhai on his 100th birthday on 12 August, 2019.



Legacy



- **The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, (VSSC), which is the Indian Space Research Organization's lead facility for launch vehicle development located in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), capital of Kerala state, is named in his memory.**
- **Along with other Ahmedabad-based industrialists, he played a major role in setting up of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.**
- **Indian Postal Department released a commemorative Postal Stamp On his first death anniversary (30 December 1972)**
- **In 1973, the International Astronomical Union decided that a lunar crater, Bessel A, in the Sea of Serenity will be known as the Sarabhai crater.[14][15]**
- **The lander on India's moon mission Chandrayaan-2 which was to land near the South Pole of the moon on Sep 20, 2019 was named Vikram in his honour.**
- **Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC) located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat is named after him. Vikram Sarabhai established this institute around the 1960s.**
- **Former World Quiz Champion Vikram Joshi was named after him.**
- **On 12 August 2019, Google's Doodle for India commemorated Sarabhai's 100th birth anniversary.**



Some Glimpse of Vikram Sarabhai



**Sarabhai on a 1972
Indian stamp**



**Vikram and Mrinalini
Sarabhai c. 1948**





Source of Information References



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