

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

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Why is in news? PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was born on **15 October 1931** in Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. His birthday is celebrated as **National Innovation Day**.

He is one of the most respected scientists in India with the unique honour of receiving **accredited doctoral degrees** from 48 Universities and institutions from India and abroad.

He was sworn in as **India's 11th President in 2002** and completed his term in 2007.

He planned to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped him earn the nickname "Missile Man".

He was a **pioneer in fiberglass technology** and led a small team to launch this effort in ISRO from construction, in a development that **led to the production of computerized rocket motor cases**.

He was instrumental as **Project Director to develop India's first native satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3)** which successfully injected the **Rohini satellite** into **Near-Earth Orbit in July 1980** and made India a special member of the Space Club.

He was **responsible for the emergence of the ISRO launch vehicle program**, particularly the **PSLV configuration**.

After working for 20 years at ISRO and having the expertise to **introduce automotive technology**, he has taken on the **responsibility of developing the Indigenous Guide**.

He has been the Chief Executive of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).

It has led to the **use of missile strategic weapons and the testing of Pokhran-II** in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Department, **making India a World Nuclear Weapon**.

In 1998, he launched a national program called **Technology Vision 2020**, which he described as a road map to transform India from a less developed society to a more developed society in 20 years.

The plan required that, among other things, increase agricultural productivity, emphasize technology as a means to grow the economy, and increase access to health and education.

He was interested in bringing prosperity to rural areas through **PURA** (**Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas**), where science and technology should play a major role.

He has been awarded the most prestigious awards - Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest public award Bharat Ratna (1997).

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