

Vikram Sarabhai

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Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is 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. Sarabhai founded the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in 1947. The **PRL is also known as the cradle of space sciences in India**.

Achievements of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

- During WW2, he returned to India, where he undertook **research in cosmic rays under physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman** at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- Sarabhai **founded the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association** in 1947 and looked after its affairs until 1956.
- Realizing the need for professional management education in India, Sarabhai was **instrumental in setting up the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad** in 1962.
- Establishing the Indian National Committee for Space Research in 1962, which was later renamed the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Sarabhai also **set up the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station** in southern India.
- After the death of physicist Homi Bhabha in 1966, Sarabhai was appointed **chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** of India. He laid the foundations for the indigenous **development of nuclear technology for defense purposes**.
- Sarabhai was also a **pioneer of the pharmaceutical industry** in India. It was he who first implemented electronic data processing and operations research techniques in the pharmaceutical industry. He played an important role in making India's pharmaceutical industry

self-reliant and self-manufacture of many drugs and equipment.

- Sarabhai was also a man of deep cultural interests. He was interested in music, photography, archaeology, fine arts and so on. With his wife Mrinalini, he **established Darpana, an institution devoted to the performing arts.**
- He also initiated the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) in Kalpakkam** and due to his efforts the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, was put in orbit in 1975 from a Russian cosmodrome.
- Sarabhai was awarded two of India's highest honours, the **Padma Bhushan (1966) and the Padma Vibhushan** (awarded posthumously in 1972).