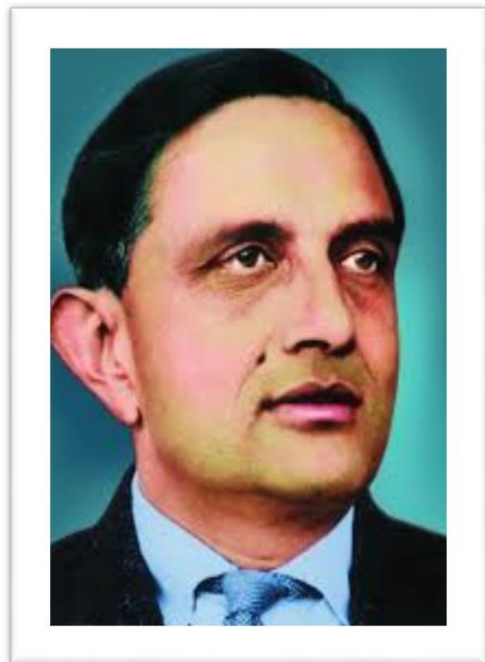


Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai

(12 August 1919 – 30 December 1971)



Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was born in Ahmedabad. After completing his early studies at Gujarat College, Ahmedabad, he joined St. John's College, University of Cambridge from where he received the Tripos (the final honours examination for a BA degree at Cambridge University), in Natural Sciences in 1940. After coming back to India he joined the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore to carry out research on cosmic rays. This was something he undertook on the advice of the eminent scientist Sir C.V. Raman. His first scientific paper 'Time Distribution of Cosmic Rays' was published in 1942. He returned to Cambridge in 1945 to further his research on cosmic rays and earned his Ph.D. in 1947 for his thesis 'Cosmic ray investigations in tropical latitudes'.

In November 1947, with the help of funding from his family, Vikram Sarabhai established the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, which subsequently got support from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and now the Department of Space (DoS). In 1962, to start its space programme, the Government of India formed the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) was formed, under his chairmanship.

Vikram Sarabhai is remembered as the Father of the Indian Space Program for his contributions to the field of space science. He founded the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), which has now eventually become the largest government space agency in the world. He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal in 1962. India's honorable awards: the Padma Bhushan in 1966 and Padma Vibhushan (posthumously) in 1972 were also bestowed to him. Besides PRL, he also established the Indian Institute of Management, the Community Science Center, Space Application Center in Ahmedabad, and Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Thiruvananthapuram.

Teachers may suggest students to make a collage of photographs of scientists in physics depicting the advancements in the subject.