

# Dr. Pisharoth Rama Pisharoty

**Padma Shri (1970)**



**(10TH FEB, 1909 TO 24TH SEPT 24, 2002)**

Pisharoth Rama Pisharoty was a renowned Indian meteorologist and physicist, widely recognised as the **Father of Remote Sensing** in India. His visionary work modernised the study of India's complex monsoon systems and introduced advanced scientific methods to address critical challenges in agriculture and the environment. Through his leadership, India began linking atmospheric science and space-based observation with real-world applications that directly benefited society.

A pioneer of applied science, Pisharoty introduced remote sensing to India in the 1960s and led the country's first experiment using airborne sensors to detect coconut root-wilt disease in Kerala. An expert in atmospheric science, he made lasting contributions to the understanding of monsoons, tropical cyclones, and weather systems, strengthening India's forecasting capabilities and earning international recognition through collaborations with global scientific organisations.

## Career Highlights and Academic Roles

Dr. Pisharoty held several key leadership positions that shaped India's scientific infrastructure:

- **Early Career (1932-1941):** Served as a Lecturer at Loyola College, Chennai, while working alongside C.V. Raman.
- **Meteorological Leadership (1942 onwards):** Joined the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in 1942.
- **Institute Founding (1962):** Became the Founder Director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
- **Space Technology Focus (1972-1975):** Served as Director of Remote Sensing and Satellite Meteorology at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

## Awards and Honours

Dr Pisharoty's significant contributions were recognised both nationally and internationally:

- Padma Shri (1970).
- IMO Prize (1989), the most prestigious international award in meteorology, given by the WMO.
- Raman Centenary Medal (1988) and K.R. Ramanathan Medal (1990).

His legacy endures through the ongoing work of ISRO and the IMD, which continue to advance his pioneering vision for applying remote sensing to benefit weather forecasting, agriculture, and environmental studies across India.