

Indian Scientist

Shivram Baburao Bhoje

A Distinguished Indian Nuclear Scientist – Padma Shri (2003)



BORN 9 APR 1942

He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the College of Engineering Pune (COEP) in 1965.

Career and Contributions

Bhoje trained in Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and began his career as a Scientific Officer at BARC, Trombay. In 1969–70, he was deputed to France, where he worked on designing a fast-breeder test reactor (FBTR).

Upon returning to India in 1971, he joined the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, leading the design and construction of India's 40 MW FBTR. Under his leadership, the reactor successfully generated electricity in 1997.

As Head of the Nuclear Systems Division (1985), Bhoje played a key role in designing the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR). By 1992, he became the Director of the Reactor Group, overseeing FBTR operations and PFBR research. His expertise contributed to the clearance and approval of PFBR construction in 2003.

Bhoje made significant contributions to nuclear reactor safety, engineering, and research. He was instrumental in establishing Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited for PFBR operations. He published over 200 research papers and represented India at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 1987 to 1997. He also served on the IAEA Senior Advisory Group on Nuclear Energy.

Awards and Recognition

- **Padma Shri (2003)** – India's fourth-highest civilian award.
- **H K Firodia Award (2006)** – For excellence in science and technology.
- **VASVIK Industrial Research Award (1992)** – In Mechanical Sciences and Technology.
- **Sir Visvesvaraya Memorial Award** – From the Engineers Foundation.

Later Life and Legacy

After retiring in 2004, Bhoje continued contributing to education as an advisor to Shivaji University and a member of AICTE's postgraduate research board. His work advanced India's self-reliance in nuclear energy, inspiring future generations in science and engineering.

His remarkable contributions to nuclear science and energy research have left a lasting impact on India's technological progress, making him an inspiration for students interested in nuclear engineering and scientific innovation.