

## Indian Scientist

# A. Sivathanu Pillai

**Padma Shri (2002), Padma Bhushan (2013)**



**(Born On 15 July 1947)**

Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai is one of India's most respected aerospace and defence scientists. He played a pivotal role in advancing India's missile technology, fostering Indo - Russian collaboration, and earning some of the nation's highest civilian honours.

### Scientific Contributions

Dr A. Sivathanu Pillai, known as the Father of BrahMos Aerospace, led the Indo - Russian project that built the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile. Working with Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on key missile projects like SLV - 3, he helped India develop strong missile power on land, in the air, and at sea, boosting the nation's self - reliance in defence technology.

### Achievements

He successfully turned BrahMos into a powerful and versatile weapon system for India. Through joint ventures and international collaborations, he helped raise India's global standing in defence technology. As Chief Controller of R&D at DRDO, he oversaw many critical missile and aerospace projects that strengthened the nation's security.

### Awards & Recognitions

He received the Padma Shri in 2002 and the Padma Bhushan in 2013, and in 2014, Russia honoured him with the Order of Friendship. He also earned many defence and technology awards for his leadership in aerospace innovation. He served as an Honorary Professor at ISRO, IIT Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Science, and holds a PhD in Technology Management with additional training from Harvard Business School.



### Publications

He wrote books like Mere Sapnon Ka Bharat, and We Can Do It (with Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam), encouraging innovation, self - reliance, and national growth. His writings and research on BrahMos and missile projects show how planning, teamwork, and leadership helped India advance in defence and science.

### Legacy

He strengthened India's defence technology through his contributions to defence R&D and project management. His books inspired confidence in India's technological future. As a scientist, teacher, and leader, he motivated young minds to value innovation, self - reliance, and national service.