

## Indian Scientist

# G. Madhavan Nair

**Padma Vibhushan (2019), Padma Bhushan (2009)**



**(Born on October 31, 1943)**

G. Madhavan Nair was born in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. While studying electrical engineering at the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram, he developed a deep fascination for technology and space systems. Inspired by the dream of making India self-reliant in space technology, these college years laid the foundation for his future career in the country's space programme.

After graduating, G. Madhavan Nair joined the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), beginning a remarkable journey that would make him one of India's most respected space scientists.

### Scientific Contributions

He played a key role in developing the PSLV and strengthening the GSLV programme, improved INSAT communication satellites for TV, telecom, and weather, and supported the growth of Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites.

By boosting India's self-reliance in space technology, he led many successful ISRO missions between 2003 and 2009, including Chandrayaan - 1, which confirmed the presence of water on the Moon.

### Awards and Recognition

He received the Padma Bhushan in 2009 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2019 for his major contributions to India's space programme and to science and engineering. Internationally, he was honoured with the IEEE Simon Ramo Medal for his leadership in space technology and received the Astronautical Society of India Award for his key role in Indian space missions. Several universities also awarded him honorary doctorates in recognition of his achievements in space science and engineering.

### Legacy

G. Madhavan Nair is remembered as a key leader who strengthened India's space programme through major advancements in satellite and launch vehicle technology.

His work improved India's self-reliance in space science and technology. He inspired young scientists and contributed greatly to India's global reputation in space research.

