



**Dr. R. Chidambaram**  
**Principal Scientific Advisor**  
**Government of India, India**

Dr. R. Chidambaram is the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and former Director of India's primary nuclear research facility, BARC. He played a key role in the 1974 nuclear explosion experiment at Pokaran and led the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) team in the Pokhran-II tests in May 1998.

Dr. Chidambaram was also one of the members of IAEA's 'Commission of Eminent Persons'. He also played an important role in getting the Safeguards Agreement passed by the Board of IAEA that followed the signing of the Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between India and the United States of America.

He became a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, later becoming its Chairman in 1993. He chaired the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during 1994-95. His key participation in the design and successful execution of Operation Smiling Buddha saw him leading the DAE team of Operation Shakti in 1998.

Dr. Chidambaram is the recipient a number of awards and honors. Indian Government acknowledged his contribution to the successful nuclear tests by awarding the Padma Shri, the fourth highest Civilian honor of the nation, in 1975 and the Padma Vibushan, the Second highest civilian honor, in 1999. He is also the recipient of numerous awards from various universities and organizations.

He has also served as a member, chairman and president of a number of organizations which, among others, include IIT-Madras, IIT-Bombay, the Materials Research Society of India, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the International Union of Crystallography. Early 2008, IAEA invited Dr. Chidambaram to be a member of the "Commission of Eminent Persons", for making

recommendations to the Board of Governors, regarding long-term priorities and funding.

Dr. Chidambaram completed his B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics at and M.Sc. in Physics with the specialization in analogue computers at University of Madras. He completed his Ph.D. in nuclear physics, at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore . His Ph.D., research thesis on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance was awarded the Martin Forster Medal for the best Ph.D thesis submitted to the IISc during 1961-62. He was also awarded the D.Sc. in Metallurgy and in material science, degree by eight Universities.