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The President's Secretariat  
Rashtrapati Bhavan  
New Delhi-110004

Subject: Request for Recommendation of Padma Vibhushan or Bharat Ratna for Dr. Nambi Narayanan

Your Excellency

I write to you not as an expert, not as a scientist, nor as a historian, but as a helpless student who has been taught that India is a great country. Yet, I find myself struggling with a painful contradiction—how can a country so great, so capable of honoring its heroes, still leave one of its finest scientists without the highest recognition he deserves?

He is the man who built the backbone of ISRO. The **Vikas engine**, the very heart of our space program, the very force that carries our rockets beyond the skies, was his gift to India. This engine has never failed—not once. While the world doubted India's capabilities in space, this engine proved them wrong, launching satellites, missions, and dreams into the cosmos. Today, every major Indian space mission, from **Chandrayaan to Mangalyaan to Gaganyaan**, runs on this engine. While he was later exonerated of all false charges, the years of humiliation he endured have overshadowed the recognition he truly deserves. A Padma Bhushan was conferred upon him, but for a scientist of his stature, it feels a void and is insufficient.

A man who gave India a technology that the world's most powerful nations tried to deny us, we accused of espionage. If anyone did "espionage," it was Dr. Nambi Narayanan—not by stealing from others, but by mastering what they wanted to keep from us.

India is a great country, but not as great as it should be. It is great because it gave birth to minds like Dr. Narayanan—visionaries who propelled us toward the stars. But it is not great enough to have recognized them in time. Instead of medals, Dr. Narayanan was given handcuffs. Instead of respect, he was handed betrayal. A man who should have been celebrated as a national treasure was tortured, humiliated, and made to fight for his dignity. Years later, he was exonerated, but can an apology ever undo the suffering he endured? We, as a country, stole from him the years he could have spent taking us further in space exploration. And even after being proven innocent, after being hailed as a hero in hindsight, the honor that is deserved the most—the **Bharat Ratna**—remains absent.

Your Excellency, I am just a student, with no influence, no power—only words. But if my words can reach you, if they can make even the smallest difference, I plead with you to correct this historical wrong. Please recommend Dr. Nambi Narayanan for the **Bharat Ratna**. If not as a celebration of what he achieved, but as a compensation of what he suffered. I hope my voice, though small, reaches the right ears. If an unsung scientist like Dr. Narayanan does not get the recognition he deserves, then what message does it send to the future minds of this country?

With the utmost respect,

Apurva Pandey