# Biography

## Dr N Thajuddin

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Prof. N. Thajuddin, Ph.D., D.Sc., began his scientific journey with a clear focus on microbiology—particularly cyanobacterial and microalgal taxonomy and biotechnology—and strengthened this foundation with a year-long post-doctoral research associate tenure at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, through a prestigious DBT (Govt. of India) Overseas Award. This early international exposure set the tone for a career defined by rigorous scholarship and institution-building.

He then dedicated decades to Bharathidasan University (BDU), where he accumulated 31 years of teaching and 35 years of research, rising to Professor & Head of the Department of Microbiology (for two long stints spanning 14.5 and 9.9 years). Alongside departmental leadership, he took on university governance roles—serving as Senate Member (2007–2019) and Syndicate Member (2009–2010)—and academic stewardship as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology (2015–2019). These roles reflect a steady progression from laboratory leadership to broad academic administration and policy-level responsibility.

His mission to build national scientific infrastructure culminated in two cornerstone achievements: a key role in establishing the National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NFMC) and later leading the creation of the National Repository for Microalgae & Cyanobacteria – Freshwater (NRMC-F), both supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. As Coordinator/Principal Investigator of NRMC-F&M and Director of NFMC, he transformed a niche specialization into national platforms that support biodiversity conservation, reference resources, and translational research for the country.

Beyond facilities, he consistently expanded programs and academic quality systems at BDU. He coordinated the DST-PURSE Programme (2016–2022), chaired and coordinated the Centre for Excellence in the School of Life Sciences (2017–2023), convened the World-Class Curriculum Development Cell in Biological Sciences (2017–2022), and served as Programme Coordinator for the 5-Year Integrated M.Sc. Life Sciences (2019–2022). He also anchored biosafety and ethics governance as Member Secretary for the Institutional Biosafety Committee (2016–2022) and Institutional Ethics Committee (2018–2022), evidencing his commitment to safe, ethical, and forward-looking research ecosystems.

His editorial and scholarly communication leadership is equally notable. As Editor-in-Chief of the Bharathidasan Journal of Science & Technology (2018–2022) and Library in-charge for the School of Life Sciences, he strengthened scholarly standards, visibility, and access. He also served the academic community as President of the Alumni Association (2007–2011), creating durable networks that support students and alumni alike.

In research, his output is expansive and sustained: **450 publications**, including 70 book chapters/reviews and four papers in Nature group journals; 11 books with leading publishers (Elsevier, CRC Press, Springer Nature, InTech); and extensive sequence/data contributions—650 nucleotide/gene deposits to GenBank, barcodes for six fungi, and 9 cyanobacterial whole-genome sequences. The quantitative impact matches the scale: 14,736 citations, h-index 59, i10-index 208, and a cumulative impact factor near 600.37.

His mentored 38 Ph.D. scholars (including 10 as co-guide), 31 M.Phil. candidates, 142 M.Sc. projects, and 15 post-doctoral fellows. He has evaluated 156 Ph.D. theses from other universities and served on 170 doctoral committees—evidence of trusted expertise across institutions. In recognition of his enduring influence on student success, his alumni instituted the "**Professor N. Thajuddin Endowment Gold Medal Award**," conferred annually since 2024 to the First Rank M.Sc. Microbiology student at BDU.

On the funding and translation front, he has secured ₹7.24 crores for personal research and facilitated a further ₹18.39 crores through major national programs (UGC non-SAP, DST-PURSE, FIST), while pursuing innovation with six patents (four Indian and two US), including a US patent granted in April 2022. His collaboration portfolio includes five MoUs with universities in the Republic of Korea, P.R. China, and Taiwan, and three industry MoUs worth ₹1.07 crore focusing on effluent treatment, novel building materials, and energy storage—clear markers of research-to-practice translation.

His scholarly citizenship is broad and public-facing: 118 papers presented at 49 international and 383 papers at 97 national conferences/symposia/seminars, with 57 best paper awards or cash prizes. As a sought-after academic voice, he has delivered over 430 invited talks (lead/plenary/keynote/inaugural/valedictory), chaired 42 technical sessions, addressed eight graduation ceremonies, and even contributed to science outreach through four All India Radio talks. He has organized five refresher courses, three DST-INSPIRE programmes, eight symposia, two international conferences, two seminars, and eight workshops—systematically building communities of practice.

His honors and fellowships underscore leadership recognized by peers: the TANSA Award (TNSCST), Senior Scientist and Life-Time Achievement Awards from professional societies, and election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (London), Linnean Society (London), National Academy of Biological Sciences, Mycological Society of India, and Microbiologists Society of India. He is listed among the Top 2% Scientists of the World in Microbiology (Stanford University, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025), further affirming global standing.

Crowning this trajectory of growth, he now serves as Pro–Vice Chancellor at B. S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science & Technology, Chennai. —an executive role that unites his research, academic, and administrative experience to drive institutional excellence. The path from early specialization and international post-doctoral training, through department, faculty, and university-wide leadership at BDU, to national facility creation and policy-level influence, maps a career devoted to building infrastructure, mentoring talent, advancing knowledge, and translating microbiology for societal good.