

Brief Biodata of Professor C.N.R. Rao

C.N.R. Rao (born on 30 June 1934, Bangalore, India) received the M.Sc. degree from Banaras, Ph.D. from Purdue, D.Sc. from Mysore universities. He is Honorary President and Linus Pauling Research Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research. He is also an Honorary Professor at the Indian Institute of Science. His main research interests are in solid state and materials chemistry. He is an author of over 1774 research papers and 54 books. He has received honoris causa doctorate degrees from 84 universities including Purdue, Bordeaux, Banaras, Calcutta, Delhi, IITs (Bombay, Kharagpur, Kanpur, New Delhi, Guwahati), IISERs (Bhopal, Kolkata, Mohali, Pune), Northwestern, Notre Dame, Novosibirsk, Oxford, Stellenbosch, Temple, Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, Uppsala, Wales, Wroclaw, Caen, Liverpool, St. Andrews, Canberra, Taiwan and Desikottama from Visva-Bharati.

Prof. Rao is a member of several of the science academies in the world, including the Royal Society, London, the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A., the Russian, French and Japan Academies as well as the American Philosophical Society. He is a Member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Foreign Fellow of Academia Europaea, the Royal Society of Canada and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is a distinguished visiting professor of the University of California.

Among the various medals, honours and awards received by him, mention may be made of the Marlow Medal of the Faraday Society (1967), Bhatnagar Prize (1968), Padma Shri (1974), Royal Society of Chemistry (London) Medal (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1985), Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London (1989), Blackett Lectureship of the Royal Society (1991), Einstein Gold Medal of UNESCO (1996), Linnett Professorship of the University of Cambridge (1998), Centenary Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2000), Hughes Medal of the Royal Society for original discovery in physical sciences (2000), Karnataka Ratna (2001), the Order of Scientific Merit (Grand-Cross) from the President of Brazil (2002) and the Somiya Award of the International Union of Materials Research (2004). He is the first recipient of the India Science Award by the Government of India and received the Dan David Prize for science in the future dimension for his research in Materials Science in 2005. He was named Chemical Pioneer by the American Institute of Chemists (2005), Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the President of the French Republic (2005) and received the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Physics, London (2006) and of St. Catherine's College, Oxford (2007). He received the Nikkei Asia Prize for Science, Technology and Innovation in 2008 and was awarded the Royal Medal by the Royal Society (2009) and the August-Wilhelm-von-Hoffmann Medal by the German Chemical Society (2010). He received the Ernesto Illy Trieste Science Prize for materials research in 2011 and was Albert Einstein Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2012. The President of India conferred the title Bharat Ratna in 2014. The Emperor of Japan bestowed the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star in 2015. He was conferred the highest award for materials research, the von Hippel award by the Materials Research Society, in 2017. He is the first Asian to receive this award. The Centre for Advanced Materials of Ras Al Khaima has conferred the First Sheikh Saud International Prize for Materials Research (2019), Karnataka Science and Technology Academy Lifetime Achievement Award in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture & Medicine); Eni Award 2020 Edition of the Energy Frontiers Prize.

Prof. Rao was Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister during 2004-2014 and also 1985-89. He was President of The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS). He is Founder-President of both the Chemical Research Society of India and of the Materials Research Society of India. Prof. Rao was President of the Indian National Science Academy (1985-86), the Indian Academy of Sciences (1989-91) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (1985-97). He was the Director of the Indian Institute of Science (1984-94), and Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee to the Union Cabinet (1997-98) and Albert Einstein Research Professor (1995-99).