

Indian Scientist

C. N. R. Rao

Padma Vibhushan (1985), and Padma Shri (1974)



(Born 30 June 1934)

Prof. C. N. R. Rao is a world – renowned Indian chemist and materials scientist, famous for his pioneering work in solid – state chemistry and nanomaterials. He is often called the **“Father of Solid State Chemistry in India”** and is one of the most respected scientists globally.

He has worked extensively in:

- Chemistry of Materials
- Nanoscience
- Transition metal oxides
- Spectroscopy and molecular structure

He has also played a major role in shaping India’s science policy and research institutions. Became a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at a very young age and quickly rose as a leading researcher.

Major Scientific Contributions

- Pioneered solid – state chemistry in India, advancing research on metal oxides, crystal structures, and phase transitions.
- Made landmark contributions to materials chemistry, nanoscience, graphene, superconductors, and transition metal oxides.

- Published 1,800+ research papers and 58 books, making him one of the world's most cited chemists.
- Played a key role in establishing IISERs, promoting India's Nano Mission, and strengthening scientific research infrastructure.

Leadership Roles

Founder and Chairman of JNCASR, Bengaluru, and Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

Major Awards & Honours

Recipient of the **Royal Medal, Hughes Medal, Dan David Prize, Von Hippel Award, and Legion of Honour (France), Bharat Ratna (2014), Padma Vibhushan (1985), and Padma Shri (1974)**. Honorary doctorates from 80+ universities and Fellow of leading scientific academies worldwide.

Legacy & Inspiration

Prof. C. N. R. Rao pioneered materials science and nanotechnology in India, strengthening scientific research through his lifelong commitment to science and education.

