

Subrahmanyan



Physicists

Indian Famous Indian Men

19 October 1910 AD Famous 19th October Birthdays

Libra Libra Men

Lahore, British India

21 August 1995 AD

Chicago, Illinois, United States

Chandrasekhara Subrahmanya

Lalitha Chandrasekhar

Nobel Prize in Physics (1983)

Adams Prize (1948)

Padma Vibhushan (1968)

A Nobel laureate, who along with William A. Fowler, won the Nobel Prize for Physics for his mathematical theory of black holes,, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar was an Indian-American astrophysicist best known for his work on the theoretical structure and evolution of stars. A highly intelligent man, his work ranged across the fields of stellar structure, radiative transfer, white dwarfs, quantum theory, hydrodynamic stability and mathematical theory of black holes. Born into a large family in Lahore, Punjab, young Chandrasekhar was expected to follow in his father's footsteps and get himself established in government service. But fate had something else in store for him and the young boy found himself inexplicably pulled towards science and scientific pursuits. Even this was not totally unexpected—after all, the youngster's paternal uncle, Sir C. V. Raman had already done the country proud by bagging a Nobel Prize for Physics. A brilliant

ALSO LISTED IN

NATIONALITY

BORN ON

ZODIAC SIGN

BORN IN

DIED ON

PLACE OF DEATH

FATHER

SPOUSE:

AWARDS:

student, he was awarded a Government of India scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge. Eventually he would become best known for what would become famous as the 'Chandrasekhar Limit'. An unassuming man, he encouraged people to call him Chandra.



Career

- He was appointed as Assistant Professor in the University of Chicago in January 1937 on the recommendation of Dr. Otto Struve and President Robert Maynard Hutchins.
- Chandrasekhar remained at the University of Chicago for his entire career, spanning almost six decades. He was made an associate professor in 1942 and a full professor in 1944.
- In 1947 he was appointed the Distinguished Service Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics and became the professor emeritus in 1985.
- He served as the editor of 'The Astrophysical Journal' from 1952 to 1971 and under his editorship converted the private journal into a National Journal of the American Astronomical Society.
- Throughout his career he worked not just at the University of Chicago, but also later at NASA's Laboratory for Astrophysics and Space Research which was built in 1966.
- Even during his last years he kept himself extremely busy in the pursuit of newer scientific objectives. In 1990 he had begun the work on a project on the detailed geometric arguments in Sir Isaac Newton's 'Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica'.

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Major Works

- He is best known for discovering the 'Chandrasekhar Limit' with which he proved that there is a maximum mass which can be supported against gravity by pressure made up of electrons and nuclei. The most amazing thing about this discovery is that he came up with it while he was still a student.

Awards & Achievements

- In 1968 he was honored with the Padma Vibushan, the second highest civilian award of India for his exceptional and distinguished services to the field of science.
- He was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983 along with William A. Fowler for his work on the structure and evolution of stars. He was however upset that the citation mentioned only his earliest work and not his later ones.

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