

C N R Rao is National Research Professor, Linus Pauling Research Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and honorary professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). He was director of IISc and founding President of JNCASR. C N R Rao is an author of 1,400 research papers and has written or edited 43 books dealing with spectroscopy, solid state and materials chemistry, superconductivity, nanomaterials and related topics. He has received 48 honorary doctorate degrees from Indian and foreign universities including Purdue, Oxford, Uppsala, Northwestern, Novosibirsk, Bordeaux, Wales, Wrocław, Colorado and Liverpool.

C N R Rao has received numerous prizes and medals of which mention must be made of the Marlow Medal of the Faraday Society (1967), Bhatnagar Prize (1968), Hevrovsky Gold Medal of the Czechoslovak Academy (1989), Albert Einstein Gold Medal of UNESCO (1996), Centenary Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London (2000), Hughes Medal (2000) as well as the Royal Medal (2009) of the Royal Society (London), and Nikkei Prize (2008). The August-Wilhelm-von-Hoffmann Medal (2010) has just been conferred to him by the German Chemical Society.

The President of India conferred Padma Shri (1974) and Padma Vibhushan (1985) on C N R Rao. He has been President of the science academies in India, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and is the chairman of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India.