



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

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A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

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Breakthrough Science Society mourns the passing away of Professor E C G Sudarshan on 14 May 2018, whose seminal contributions to theoretical Physics have enriched our understanding about the material world. Sudarshan's illustrious career in physics began in CMS College, Kottayam, followed by Madras Christian College (MCC) Chennai and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai. It was the great teachers in the MCC who laid the strong foundation of Physics in already well trained Sudarshan. During his days in TIFR he befriended the legendary PAM Dirac whose lecture notes he was assigned to transcribe. Another visitor to TIFR, the renowned theoretical nuclear physicist R E Marshak, was so impressed by Sudarshan that he invited Sudarshan to join him in Rochester as a PhD student.

It was Professor Sudarshan, along with Professor R J Glauber, who developed what is known as the "coherent state representation" for the quantum theory of light. He is also well-known for V-A theory, which later helped scientists to understand electro-weak forces in nature. Because of these seminal contributions he was nominated twice for Nobel Prize. Along with these, Professor Sudarshan also made seminal contributions in foundations of quantum mechanics. Working on the implications of special theory of relativity, he found a way for particles to travel faster than light. These particles were named tachyons. Though it remains a mathematical exercise with no experimental confirmation, it attests to professor Sudarshan's considerable theoretical prowess and scientific audacity.

Professor Sudarshan founded the Centre for Theoretical Studies (now the Centre for High Energy Physics) at the Indian Institute of Science and was the director of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai. With his demise the world has lost a great creative mind and an outstanding theoretical physicist.

Soumitro Banerjee

General Secretary