

# N. Kumar: A universalist among physicists

**SHUBASHREE DESIKAN**  
CHENNAI

Professor Narendra Kumar, physicist and former director of Raman Research Institute (1994-2005), Bengaluru, passed away on Monday. He was in Bengaluru and had been ailing for some days.

He is a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2006 and has won numerous awards for his work in physics, including the S.S. Bhatnagar prize in 1985. With close to 200 publications and four books to his credit, Prof. Kumar was considered a universalist among physicists, having worked in almost all areas of theoretical physics from condensed matter physics

## OBITUARY

to general theory of relativity. His hobby was making electro-mechanical toys.

“Physics came first for him and later mathematical formalism. I was lucky to be his student,” says Navinder Singh, an associate professor at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

One of Prof. Kumar’s discoveries was the much celebrated Dorokhov-Mello-Pereyra-Kumar equation. It describes the universal quantum conductance fluctuations, which are very important in the operation of nanoscale electronic devices.