

Tributes to Chandra

The passing away of Professor Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar on 21 August 1995 was a great loss to the astrophysics community the world over. With his roots in this country Chandra had been a source of inspiration to Indian scientists, old and young alike. It was a fitting step therefore for *Current Science* to have decided to bring out a special section to honour his memory.

Having been entrusted with the responsibility of editing such an issue, I was very fortunate in receiving cooperation from all the prospective authors whom I approached for writing in the issue to highlight Chandra's manifold contributions to theoretical astrophysics as well as to tell us about his personality. I take this opportunity to thank them for making such excellent contributions within a timebound framework.

It is obviously impossible to do justice to the mountain of work Chandra has done, within the format of a few articles. What is presented here are glimpses of a brilliant mind whose methodical approach to problems was a legend in his lifetime and will remain so.

I am also grateful to the Vice-President of the University of Chicago for granting permission to reproduce Chandra's Nora and Edward Ryerson Lecture on patterns of creativity in the arts and the sciences. The caricature below is by the artist Mr Gujjar of Bangalore: it was presented to Chandra when he delivered the Dedication Lecture at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics at Pune in 1992.

Finally, I thank Professors S. Ramaseshan and P. Balaram for associating me with this special issue.

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