



## OBITUARY

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### Thanu Padmanabhan

(10 March 1957 – 17 September 2021)

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**Thanu Padmanabhan** was an Indian theoretical physicist and cosmologist whose research spanned a wide variety of topics in gravitation, structure formation in the universe and quantum gravity. He published nearly 300 papers and reviews in international journals and ten books in these areas. He made several contributions related to the analysis and modelling of dark energy in the universe and the interpretation of gravity as an emergent phenomenon. He was a Distinguished Professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) at Pune, India. His doctoral advisor was Prof. J.V. Narlikar.

A Stanford study in 2020, listing top scientists in different fields, ranked Padmanabhan as 24th in the world in his research area.



**Padma Shri** (from the President of India, 2007)

#### Quotes by Padmanabhan:

*“I worry a lot about putting together the principles of quantum theory and gravity in a consistent manner.”*

*“How did structures like galaxies, clusters of galaxies, etc. form? I try to get somewhere in understanding this question though progress has become very difficult in the recent years since this area has become fashionable.”*