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## Yellapragada Subbarow

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#### Stamp Profile

**Country of Origin:** India

**Issued on:** December 19, 1995

**Issued by:** Department of Posts, Government of India

**Printed by:** India Security Press, Nashik

**Printing Process:** Photogravure

**Colour:** Multicoloured (Orange-Brown dominant)

**Postal stamp print size:** 3.91 x 2.90 cm.

**Denomination:** 100 paisa

#### PERSONALITY PROFILE

An unsung titan of modern medicine, Dr. Yellapragada Subbarow was a pioneering Indian-American biochemist whose discoveries fundamentally altered the landscape of pharmacology and cellular biology. Born on January 12, 1895, in Bhimavaram in the erstwhile Madras Presidency, he pursued his initial medical education at Madras Medical College. Facing significant systemic and financial hurdles in India, he eventually migrated to the United States, earning a diploma in tropical medicine and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard University.

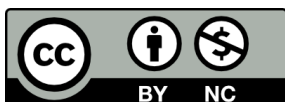
During his tenure at Harvard and subsequently as the Director of Research at Lederle Laboratories, Dr. Subbarow engineered a breathtaking sequence of medical breakthroughs. Working alongside Cyrus Fiske, he co-discovered the function of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) as the primary energy source in human cells, a revelation that laid the cornerstone for modern cellular biochemistry. His relentless pursuit of synthesizing vitamins led to the successful synthesis of folic acid, proving critical in the battle against tropical sprue and maternal anemia.

Perhaps most notably for modern therapeutics, Dr. Subbarow developed methotrexate, one of the first highly effective chemotherapeutic agents for childhood leukemia, which also remains a gold-standard treatment for various autoimmune conditions today. Under his directorship, his team also discovered diethylcarbamazine (DEC), the frontline treatment for filariasis, and oversaw the development of Aureomycin, the world's first tetracycline antibiotic. Despite an unparalleled legacy that saved millions of lives, Dr. Subbarow famously eschewed the limelight and remained largely unrecognized in the broader public consciousness. He passed away on August 8, 1948, in New York.

To honour his colossal contributions, the Government of India released this commemorative stamp in December 1995, marking his birth centenary year. As the medical community celebrates his 131st birth anniversary in January 2026, this philatelic tribute serves as a poignant reminder of an extraordinary mind whose selfless dedication continues to heal humanity globally.

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