

**Narinder S.**

**Kapany**

(October 31, 1926-  
December 3, 2020)

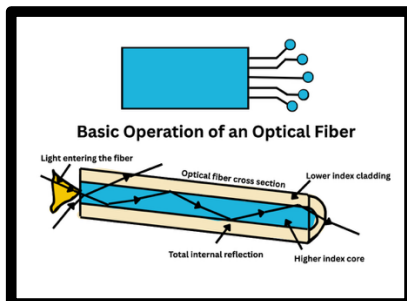
**Physicist,  
Entrepreneur**

**Indian American**

**Place of Birth:** Moga,  
Punjab, India

**Place of Death:**  
Woodside, California

**Invention:** Fiber Optics  
and Fiberscope



Arizbeth Guzman (SFSU 2025)

Known as the “Father of Fiber Optics,” Narinder is the pioneer in the invention of fiber optics. His work led to developing high-speed communication over long distances and shaping the development of today’s internet. In 1957, Narinder used fiber optic knowledge to co-develop the first flexible fiberscope with Harold Hopkins, marking the first time that allowed doctors to look inside the human body without surgery. Narinder also founded numerous businesses, like Optics Technology, Inc. and Kaptron, to commercialize fiber optic technology. His groundbreaking inventions earned him global recognition and awards, such as the Padma Vibhushan (2021) and *Fortune Magazine* “Unsung Hero” (1999).