

OBITUARY

Dr. S. K. Sikka

A doyen of high pressure physics in India



Dr. S. K. Sikka receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Former Prime Minister of India.

We are deeply saddened by the news of passing away of one of our dearest and esteemed colleagues, Dr. S. K. Sikka. His sudden demise ended our long and close association with him for almost five decades. During this period, we have known him as a prolific scientist as well as a caring colleague. Dr. Sikka's early contributions to the 'phase problem' in neutron crystallography had been accepted as teaching aids by the International Union of Crystallography. His contributions to national Security by being a member of Pokhran I & II teams, particularly to the development of the thermonuclear test device, would always be remembered in India. During his 42-year career in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), he contributed immensely to the field of High Pressure Physics.

Dr. Sikka was a distinguished scientist and Director of Atomic and Condensed Matter Physics group of BARC. In 2002, he accepted the role of Scientific Secretary to the Principal Scientific Adviser to

Government of India. Later, he came back to BARC for a short period (2010-2013) as a Homi Bhabha Chair Professor of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). During this brief period, he continued to enthuse several colleagues with his scientific insights and work.

Dr. Sikka was widely honored for his scientific contributions through several reputed awards, including Padma Shri, Fellowship of all the three National Science Academies, and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Department of Atomic Energy.

Due to his spontaneous and supportive nature, he also endeared himself to many colleagues and friends. He will always be remembered by us and his other colleagues & friends for his enormous scientific contributions and his helpful nature.

May his soul rest in peace and God offer sufficient strength to his family members to bear this grievous loss.

S. M. Sharma, Former Director, Physics Group, BARC;

R. Chidambaram, Former Chairman, AEC & Former PSA to Gol.