

Mr, Dev Raj Sikka as I knew him

by
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I have known Mr, Dev Raj Sikka from 1971 when he was working in the newly created Institute of Tropical Meteorology following the IIOE expedition and I was in the Agricultural Meteorology Division of IMD. Though we were in different disciplines, we had opportunities to interact and found him very passionate about Meteorology and not content with nibbling at the edge of any problem.

Years later when he was Director of IITM and I was in the Instruments Division of IMD we had more opportunity to interact. He was keen to improve facilities at IITM and asked me to write specifications for a Radar to be acquired by IITM for Scientists there to get hands-on experience and conduct research on rain physics and weather modification. I did that but the Radar did not materialise until much later because of administrative problems. When I initiated discussions on Low Level Wind Shear Monitoring in the context of Aviation he encouraged me and contributed some ideas. He also encouraged me to make a presentation at IITM on Structure of Tropical Cyclones

When I took up a study of the Economic benefits of the Indian Space programme in the field of Meteorology, early in this century, he again contributed some inputs and insights.

In the period around 2005 when the IMD Modernisation Committee was formed under his leadership, I as a Member of that committee had occasion to work with him over a few years and got to know him more closely. He was receptive to many ideas and at the same time not afraid to criticise anything which he found was unsatisfactory.

I am not competent to comment on any specific item of his research but I admire him for his enthusiasm and total dedication to Meteorology and his courage in speaking out while trying to improve the functioning of research as well as operations in Meteorology, qualities which he maintained till the end of his life. His passing away is a loss to Indian Meteorology and a great personal loss to colleagues and friends.

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