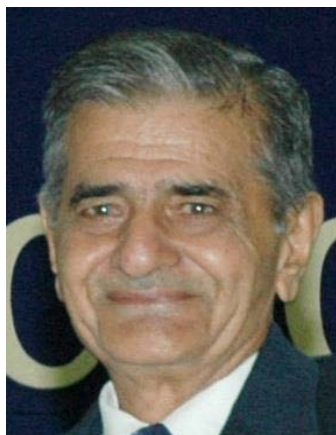


OBITUARY



Shri Dev Raj Sikka (1932-2017)

Born on 1st March 1932 in Jhang Maghiana in Pre-partition India (now in Panjab, Pakistan), Shri Dev Raj Sikka, did his M.Sc. in Physical Chemistry from Agra University with first rank in 1954. He began his professional career from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in 1954. He then joined the Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ITM) in 1964 which was later renamed as Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and became its Director in 1986. While at IITM, Pune, Shri Sikka was actively engaged in research and development in Monsoon Dynamics, Tropical Meteorology, Prediction of Weather and Climate Variability, Atmospheric Chemistry, Air-Sea Interactions etc.

He established strong linkages with scientists and institutions engaged in research and academic activities in meteorology and allied subjects, both from India and abroad. Shri Sikka has contributed immensely to the growth of meteorology in India in various capacities as highly distinguished research professional. He has been the Chairman of the Monsoon Mission of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. He has also served as the chairman of CSIR committee on Climate Change, Co-Chairman of DST's Expert committee on Climate Change; and Chairperson of the Research and Advisory Council of the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF). Shri Sikka has been a member of International Advisory Panel (IAP) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. He has published about 200 research papers on different aspects of Meteorology in peer reviewed journals and reports of international repute.

He is a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and the Indian Meteorological Society. He was awarded Sir Gilbert Walker Award for the year 2010 by Indian Meteorological Society. He was also awarded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences the 'National Award for Excellence in Atmospheric Sciences & Technology'. For his outstanding contribution to Indian Meteorology, the IMS conferred him with IMS Life Time Achievement Award, which he received in person on 20th February 2017 at a function held at Vrishti Auditorium, Mausam Bhawan, New Delhi.

Shri Sikka passed away on 18th March, 2017 after brief illness. He is survived by two daughters Poonam and Pammi.

Indian Meteorological Community remembers Shri Sikka's contribution to Meteorology in general and Monsoon Meteorology in particular. He has been inspiring figure for two generations of Indian Meteorologists. He has been respected world over for his in depth knowledge and insight about Indian Monsoon. He was a relentless worker and has contributed immensely to the growth of Indian Meteorology. Shri Sikka inspired, encouraged and supported young meteorologists and institutions throughout his professional career spanning over six decades. His frank and honest opinion and championship of the cause of Indian Meteorology will be missed, however his work will continue to inspire us and future generations. He was an active member of Indian Meteorological Society and contributed to its growth.

Indian Meteorological Society pays respectful homage to Shri Sikka.