



Shri Chandrakant Pithawa

Shri Chandrakant Pithawa retired as Distinguished Scientist and Director, Electronics & Instrumentation Group in August 2015 after 42 years of service in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai.

Shri Pithawa did his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Government Engineering College, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh in 1973, one year BARC training school course in nuclear science and engineering in 1974, Master of Engineering in Automation from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1981 and M.S. in Electronics from University of Southampton, U.K. in 1986.

Shri Pithawa made significant contributions to the control systems of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors, Compact Light Water Reactor, Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor and Electron and Proton Accelerators. He developed many important safety related computer based systems for controlling reactor power and regulating primary and secondary processes for 220 MW and 540 MW nuclear power plants including Kaiga-1&2, Rajasthan-3&4 and Tarapur-3&4 nuclear power plants.

He led the team in development of indigenous high temperature neutron detectors, first in the world, for the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR). For this reactor, he also developed indigenous Ultrasonic Imaging System for Viewing through opaque liquid Sodium.

He designed and developed servo control system for the 115 Tonne, 2.3 Meter Optical Telescope installed at Kavloor in Tamil Nadu and led the team in development of Photo Multiplier Tube based camera electronics for 170 Tonne MACE Gamma Ray Telescope installed in Ladakh.

He has contributed for many international projects including Large Hadron Collider of CERN, Geneva, High Intensity Proton Accelerator of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, USA and PHENIX Experiment of Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA.

For about 2 years he was at Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore as Head, Indus Electron Accelerator Complex and led the team in improvement of various subsystems to attain 24x7 uninterrupted operation of Indus-2 electron accelerator at 2.5 GeV energy level.

Shri Pithawa played key role in many strategic programs including 1998 Shakti nuclear tests at Pokhran and the control system for the nuclear propulsion.

Shri Pithawa has been conferred several awards including six DAE (Department of Atomic Energy) awards for Excellence in Science, Engineering and Technology and Outstanding Service Award from Indian Nuclear Society. He is a Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering. Shri Pithawa has several inventions and patents to his credit in the field of Nuclear Science.

He was given 4 years of service extension beyond his normal retirement age of 60 years. Later he served the Department of Atomic Energy as Raja Ramanna Fellow for 3 more years at ECIL, Hyderabad.

In 2017, the President of India conferred Padma Shri on Shri Chandrakant Pithawa in recognition of his distinguished service in the field of Science & Engineering.