



Dr. R. Chidambaram

Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram became the Director of The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in 1990. He was Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, from 1993 to 2000. He was till recently the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India and the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet. He is presently the DAE-Homi Bhabha Professor in BARC.

Dr. Chidambaram is one of India's distinguished experimental physicists. Dr. Chidambaram played a leading role in the design and execution of the Peaceful Nuclear Explosion experiment at Pokhran in 1974 and also led the DAE team which designed the nuclear devices and carried out the Pokhran tests in May 1998 in cooperation with the DRDO. He has made important contributions to many aspects of our nuclear technology. He has D.Sc Degrees (h.c) from more than twenty five Universities from India and abroad. He has more than 200 research publications in refereed journals and all his research work has been in India.

He was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the IAEA during 1994-95. During 1990-99, he was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography, the last three years as its Vice-President.

Dr. Chidambaram is a Fellow of all the major Science Academies in India and also of the National Academy of Engineering and the The World Academy of Sciences Trieste (Italy).

Dr. Chidambaram is a Honorary Visiting Professor in the Department of Physics, Banaras Hindu University and also Honorary Professor in the Physics and Astrophysics Department of University of Delhi.

He has received many awards and honours, notable among them are the C.V. Raman Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress Association in 1995, the Distinguished Materials Scientists of the Year Award of the Material Research Society of India (MRSI) in 1996, R.D. Birla Award of the Indian Physics Association in 1996, Homi Bhabha Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Nuclear Society(2006), The Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (2009) and the C.V. Raman Medal of the Indian National Science Academy (2013). Lifetime Achievement Award of A.P. Akademi of Sciences (2014), Lifetime Achievement Award of the Council of Power Utilites(2014). Dr. Chidambaram was awarded the ***Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award in India, in 1999.***

His initiatives as Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India, include the setting up of the Core Advisory Groups for R&D in various technology sectors(Automotive Machine Tools and Electronics Hardware), the creation of rutags (Rural Technology Action Groups) centered in 7 IITs, the establishment of SETS (Society for Electronic Transactions and Security), helping nucleate the Centres of Excellence in Nanoelectronics, the National Knowledge Network and initiating recently an R&D programme on the design of the Advanced Ultra Supercritical Thermal Plant, through a consortium of IGCAR, BHEL and NTPC.
