

Guest Commentary

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Predhiman Krishan Kaw (15 January 1948 – 18 June 2017)

PN Tandon



Prof Kaw



Prof MGK Menon

Kaw was born in Srinagar; obtained his Ph.D. in plasma physics from IIT Delhi (1966) and did his post-doc at Princeton University (1966-71). He joined the Physical Research laboratory (PRL) as an Associate Professor (1971-75). He went back to Princeton for a few years (1975-82) as a Professor in Astrophysical Science, but returned to PRL in 1982 to start the Plasma Physics Programme which was converted to Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) in 1986. He became its founder Director. He made key contributions to Tokamak Physics problems, fusion research, plasma processing applications for industries. The history of development of IPR and the role played by Prof M G K Menon in this regard is available in Prof. Kaw's own words in "Festschrift dedicated to Prof. MGK Menon (Eds), Manju Sharma, P.N. Tandon, Girish Govil". The National Academy of Sciences, India 2016. He published around 300 scientific papers. He was a recipient of a large number of awards including INSA medal for young scientist S.S. Bhatnagar Award, Albert Einstein Research Professorship of INSA, Physics Prize of TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences). He was a fellow of all three science academies of the country.

*National Brain
Research Centre,
Manesar, Gurugram,
Haryana, India*

**Address for
correspondence:**

Prof. P N Tandon,
National Brain Research
Centre, Nainwal
Mode, Manesar,
Gurugram - 122 051,
Haryana, India.
E-mail: tandon@nbrc.ac.in

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