



Dr Sanjay Bajpai (1965-2021)

Dr Sanjay Bajpai, Scientist-G, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, who successfully implemented creative national and international R&D programmes, passed away on 12.5.2021. He, born on 19.2.1965, pursued BTech in Mechanical Engg from Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, followed by MBA from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and subsequently earned PhD from IIT-Delhi.

After a brief stint in industry, Dr Sanjay joined as Scientist-B in DST in 1991. His outstanding accomplishments ensured elevation to various levels, becoming Head of Technology Division-Water & Energy. During 3 decades of dedicated service in DST, he conceptualised and steered various schemes, particularly, State S&T mechanisms through application of appropriate technology development and commercialization endeavours. He mounted field specific initiatives in the areas of water, bio-fuels and clean energy, with outcomes impacting people. His acumen in relating technology for societal relevance, was the reason for assigning Winning, Augmentation and Renovation for Water (WAR for Water) programme, spearheaded by Dr T Ramasami, the then Secretary of DST, on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court India, to come out with technological solutions for addressing various water challenges.

Dr Sanjay shaped a strong eco-system for R&D and technology demonstration in launching Clean Energy Research Initiative, with initial focus on Solar Energy. **He was instrumental in setting up DST Solar PV Hub at BESU (IEST) where interactions with the industry and academic and research institutions for utilizing the state of art facilities for solar cells and modules and systems are made possible . He was a member of the Technical review Committee and Steering Committee of the DST- IEST Solar PV Hub and always took active initiatives to monitor its progress and overcome its problems.** Seeing its success, it was expanded to cover programmes related to Methanol, Desalination, Clean Coal, Building Energy Research, Materials for Energy Storage, Carbon Capture Storage and Utilization, etc, by leveraging international collaborations. These enabled India to occupy a leadership position among 23 nations under Mission Innovation. He accelerated Clean Energy Innovation with enhanced funding, greater public private partnership and knowledge sharing. In the process, India became the first country in developing collaborative programmes for Smart Grid and

Off Grid in mounting demand driven convergent solutions, in consortia mode, reaching advanced technology readiness levels.

Dr Sanjay's interventions resulted in publication of several papers, technical reports, grant of Indian and US patents, and successful demonstration of various technologies, a few leading to commercialisation. As part of various technical committees, he ably mentored many young researchers in taking up challenging tasks and projects of great relevance. He also played a stellar role in spearheading many unique programmes of contemporary interest and guided policy makers in formulating significant initiatives of national importance. The worthy contributions of Dr Sanjay and his team received many honours.,

Dr Sanjay will be fondly remembered by scientific fraternity as the true champion of S&T face of India. He brought together many researchers across academia, R&D Labs and Industry, in taking up some of the challenges faced across the globe. His compassion and ever willing positive attitude were his hall marks, with a great SMILE (characterized by Simplicity, Modesty, Integrity, Leadership and Empathy) in the service of the nation.

Dr Sanjay leaves behind his mother, wife, two daughters and a son. We pray almighty to shower blessings for Dr Sanjay's soul to be in peace and also grant moral strength to members of his family to bear this loss.