

## Obituary

**Dr Sanjay Bajpai**  
(February 19, 1965 – May 12, 2021)



Dr Sanjay Bajpai, FNAE, 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 Engineering from Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, followed by MBA from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He was awarded PhD for the work on ‘Alternative Fuels for Internal Combustion Engines’ 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 the three 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 was responsible for the field specific initiatives in the areas of water, biofuels and clean energy, whose outcome showed a greater impact on 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 of India, to come out with technological solutions for addressing various water challenges. His proactive approach and inclusiveness enabled in finding sustainable solutions, through establishment of appropriate drinking water facilities/units in 300 much needed villages, benefiting over 1.60 million people, across the country, which have been replicated by various states, NGOs and a few corporates. This unique approach lead to international collaborations, viz, Dutch India Water Alliance for Leadership Initiative (DIWALI), through a consortium of knowledge institutions and enterprises from The Netherlands and India, between India and European Union, and a new Indigo initiative between DST and R&D institutions of Belgium, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Germany and Spain, in designing solutions to meet the utility price envelope of countries similar to Indian situation.

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. 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 USA 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, to name a few, National Urban Water Award by Union Ministry of Urban Development, Grand Challenges: Top Solutions Award by Technology Review-Massachusetts's Institute of Technology (USA), National Award for Excellence in Ground Water by Union Ministry of Water Resources, FICCI-HSBC Water-Innovation Award by FICCI, Hydrology Research Promotion Award by the Association of Hydrologists of India, Make India Award by Indian Desalination Association, Global Water Award by Energy and Environment Foundation and Aqua Excellence Award by Aqua Foundation. Dr Sanjay is a Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering and conferred with Honorary Fellowship of Association of Hydrologists of India.

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.

May God bless his soul to Rest in Peace