

## **Former Chairman of AEC Padma Shri Dr Srikumar Banerjee breaths his last**

A great physical metallurgist, Padma Shri Dr Srikumar Banerjee (25 April 1946 - 23 May 2021), was a strong supporter of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO-India).

Dr Banerjee was associated with a number of DST programmes especially the mega science programme in which he co-chaired a number of Committees like DAE-DST Coordination Committee, Executive Council for the FAIR project. He also chaired an Expert Committee which technically evaluated the revised proposal for the FAIR project with time and cost overruns. He was also associated with Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020 of DST.

As Chair-Governing Board of Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), during the time when LIGO-India project received its in-principle approval, he actively took part in the development of the project.

He retired as the Chairman, AEC and Secretary, DAE on 30th April 2012. Prior to his stint as Chairman, AEC, he was the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) from 30 April 2004 to 19 May 2010. He had also served as a DAE Homi Bhabha Chair Professor at BARC, Mumbai.

Dr Banerjee obtained a B.Tech degree with honours in Metallurgical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 1967. Thereafter, he underwent training at BARC Training School. He joined the erstwhile Metallurgy Division of BARC in 1968 and spent his entire scientific career in this establishment. On the basis of the work carried out by him in the initial years of his career in BARC, he was awarded the Ph.D. degree in metallurgical engineering by IIT, Kharagpur, in 1974.

Dr Banerjee held visiting positions in several overseas organizations, which included the University of Sussex, Brighton, England, Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung, University of Cincinnati and Ohio State University, USA.

He was awarded the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology in Engineering Sciences (1989) and Government of India's civilian award, Padma Shri, in 2005. In 2010, University of Calcutta awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Dr. Banerjee was a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, National Academy of Sciences, India, Prayagraj, and Indian National Academy of Engineering.

DST is deeply grieved at the demise of such a distinguished person and conveys condolence to the bereaved family.