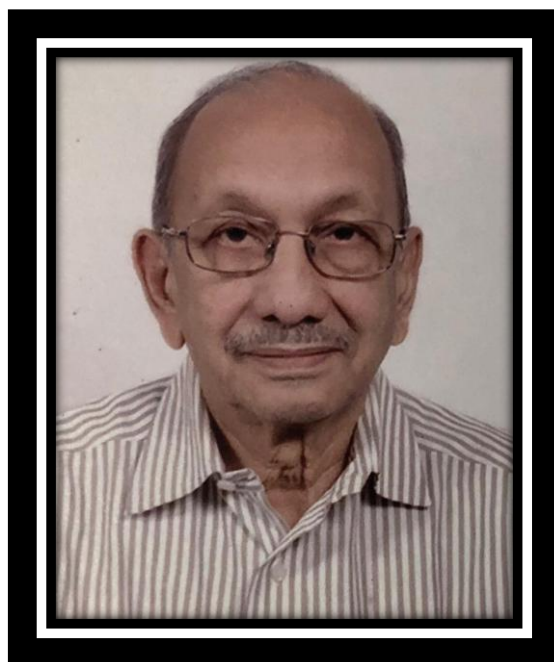


Obituary



(1937 – 2026)

Dr B A Dasannacharya, former Director, Solid State & Spectroscopy Group, BARC and former Director, Inter-University Consortium for DAE Facilities (IUC-DAEF, presently UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research) passed away on 15th February 2026 at his residence in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. Well-known to the neutron scattering community, he was awarded the prestigious AONSA Prize at a ceremony held in July 2013 during the International Conference on Neutron Scattering in Edinburgh. The award was given for his pioneering contributions to neutron scattering in the Asia-Oceania region, through his early development of neutron spectroscopy and its applications for the dynamics in low-temperature liquids and molecular solids, and his active promotion of regional and international science as well as the national user program in India.

Dr Dasannacharya was born on 6th October 1937 and studied Physics for his B.Sc. at Banaras Hindu University, India. He received M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees by research from Bombay University under the guidance of Dr. Raja Ramanna. He started his career in neutron scattering with Dr P K Iyengar in 1958 and then spent most of his scientific career at BARC. In between, he worked with Prof. Bertram Brockhouse (Noble Laureate, 1994) at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, Canada in the early sixties, and with Dr T Springer as a Guest Scientist at the Institut für Festkörperforschung (Institute for Solid State Research) at the Kernforschungsanlage Jülich (Nuclear Research Centre Jülich), Germany in 1974. Also, in the late sixties, he was an expert Scientist of International Atomic Energy Agency at Philippines Atomic Research Centre, as part of the Regional Collaboration Agreement in the South East Asian Region; under this agreement, a diffractometer was installed at the Philippines Atomic Research Centre.

Starting with the Apsara reactor, Dr Dasannacharya and his colleagues, built neutron spectrometers and contributed to the growth of neutron beam research at Cirus and Dhruva reactors at Trombay. The development of the ΔT -Window spectrometer for spallation neutron

source ISIS, United Kingdom was a high point in his numerous contributions. He was instrumental in bringing about a long-term collaboration between BARC and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, United Kingdom, which opened the gateway to ISIS pulsed neutron source facility for a large number of young scientists at Trombay.

Dr B A Dasannacharya joined Inter-University Consortium for DAE Facilities (presently UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research), Indore as its Director in 1996. In this capacity, he promoted the use of Dhruva reactor by university researchers, and was also instrumental in developing a beam line at Dhruva by IUC-DAEF in collaboration with university scientists. In addition to that, he played an important role in the development of beamlines and promoting the use of the synchrotron source INDUS at Indore, India. He was quite active even after his formal retirement in 2002 and published popular science articles in journals like Current Science, etc.

Dr Dasannacharya was a recipient of The Homi Jehangir Bhabha Medal (1999), and an elected fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, and the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Neutron Scattering Society of India extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.